

## Nasa goes looking for bargains at close of the space race



Gagarin: the first man in space in 1961

By NICK NUTTALL  
AND MARTIN FLETCHER

IN A MOVE that may signal the disintegration of the once-mighty Soviet space programme, talks begin today in Moscow on the sale to America of the Soviet Union's unused space station, Mir-2.

The station, intended as the linchpin of the Soviet space industry, is being offered to the US for between \$600 million and \$700 million.

The station, already partly built, was to replace the ageing Mir-1 space station next year, but is being mothballed after cuts in the Soviet space programme.

The space race, a by-product of the Cold War, began

with the launch of Sputnik in 1957, a severe blow to US prestige. Further US humiliation followed when Yuri Gagarin became the first man in space in 1961, orbiting Earth in the spacecraft Vostok.

President Kennedy vowed to put an American on the moon. Yesterday, Art Dula, head of Space Commerce Corporation, of Houston, Texas, the commercial arm of Glavcosmos, the leading Soviet space agency, said that he had been approached by Nasa officials interested in the sale of a range of items in the Soviet Union's space inventory, including automatic docking systems and big engines.

Mr Dula confirmed that an approach had been made over the price of the Mir station. Mr Dula is flying to Moscow today for negotiations.

Mir-2, which would require fitting with American scientific equipment, would be a cheaper substitute for the US space station Freedom, itself delayed by budget cuts.

A sale might be the key to saving the costly Soviet space programme by proving to critics that it can earn foreign currency and deserves continued support. Some Western experts, however, see the discussions as the first sign of asset-stripping in a floundering space industry that still carries out more launches

than any other nation.

As the Soviet republics separate it will be increasingly hard to keep intact the space installations necessary for the programme.

A major area of uncertainty is the Russian Federation, where Boris Yeltsin, its president, is one of the space industry's most outspoken critics. The federation has installations including Moscow's Kaliningrad mission control centre, used during the Anglo-Soviet mission to Mir-1.

Also in Moscow are the Proton booster factory, the Photon Bureau, which produces the recoverable remote sensing and microgravity satellites.

John Pike, of the Federation of American Scientists, likened Mr Yeltsin to William Proxmire, the Democrat critic of Nasa who, it is said, had the maxim, "If it moves and is heading for space, ground it". Experts believe Mr Yeltsin's opposition is likely to have been heightened by the coup role of Oleg Baklanov, one of the eight plotters and former head of the ministry controlling the space programme.

In Kazakhstan, the Baikonur cosmodrome, from where missions to Mir-1 are launched, has been criticised by environmentalists who say its use of water to cool launch pads is depleting the Aral sea.



## Lib Dems will demand five-year deal

# Ashdown sets his terms for election pact

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

PADDY Ashdown and his closest advisers have been "war-gaming" all the possibilities for a hung parliament, and they are ready to vote down any minority government unwilling to enter a five-year pact with the Liberal Democrats.

While Mr Ashdown is publicly fending off talk of hung parliaments for fear of alienating his party's policy message, he has been going through possible game plans with colleagues including Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, Lord Holford of Cheltenham, who is writing the party's election manifesto, and James Wallace, the chief whip.

Psychologists say that anything between a four-point Tory lead and a four-point Labour lead could result in a parliament in which no party

has an overall majority. Recent opinion polls have estimated the support for both main parties within that margin. The Liberal Democrats are privately expected to have about thirty MPs after the next election.

Liberal Democrat strategists believe that the replacement of Margaret Thatcher by the more pragmatic John Major has increased the prospects of a deal with the Tories if they should finish up as the largest party but short of a majority. Mr Ashdown respects and gets on well with the prime minister, and his aides believe that Chris Patten, the present Tory chairman, was instructed at a previous election to plan Tory tactics in a hung parliament. But the Liberal Democrat high command believes that the Tories would probably seek to get by as a minority government without considering a coalition.

The planning team regards an approach from Labour, in spite of all the denials at this stage, as more likely.

Mr Ashdown reckons that his party could only be damaged by a short-term deal, and Lord Jenkins has advised that any deal must be struck within the first days of a parliament if it is to work. Mr Ashdown is therefore prepared to instruct his troops to vote down a Queen's Speech produced by a minority Labour government offering no deal, even though his party would have problems financing a second general election campaign in a short period.

He will also insist that any deal is for the full life of a parliament. The Liberal Democrat leader is determined not to be used by Labour while Neil Kinnock enjoys a few months in Downing Street to enhance his image and improve Labour's prospects at a second poll. Aware, like the other parties, that voters are likely to penalise the party they blame for causing a second election in a short period and distrustful of Labour gamesmanship, Mr Ashdown is publicly emphasising the need for stability and for any arrangement to allow a coalition government to see through the full term of a parliament. Proportional representation would have to be part of that deal, he says, because without

it the prime minister from the larger party would retain the option of calling an election at a moment to suit him. It is not clear what the Liberal Democrats would do if Labour offered them everything they wanted short of PR for Westminster elections.

Last night Mr Ashdown said on Channel Four News: "If there is to be a partnership parliament in Britain, we shall honour the votes of the British people. The other two parties have said that they will reject those votes and will seek to govern on a minority basis. They would ignore stability and go for minority government, ignoring the country's interests."

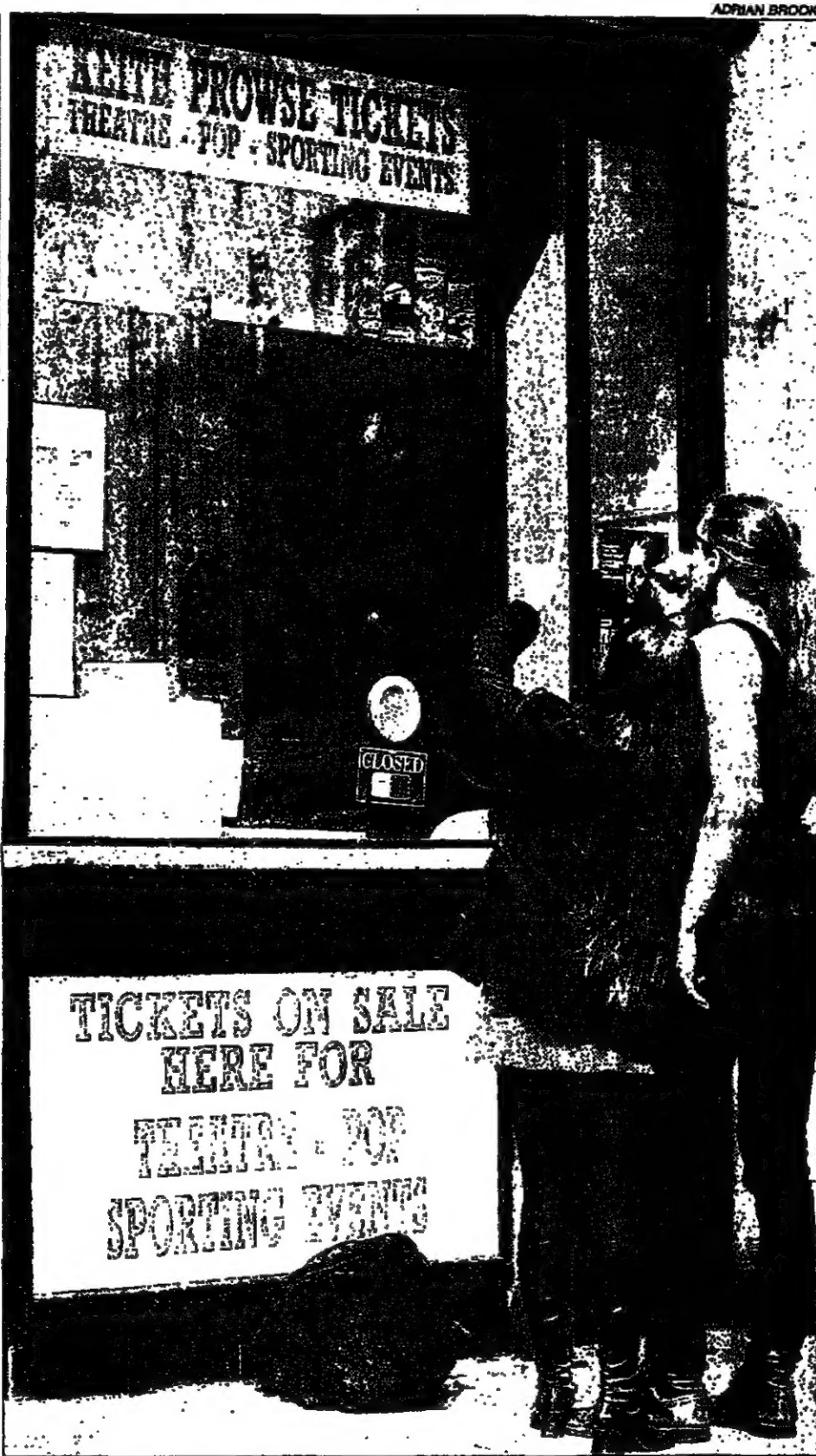
While the party strategists worked behind the scenes, their chairman, Charles Kennedy emphasised Mr Ashdown's growing personal popularity as he put the Liberal Democrats on an election footing at their conference in Bournemouth. But Mr Major sought to cool the election fever, insisting he was in no hurry to go to the country. "I don't know why everyone is getting so excited," he told Aberdeen chamber of commerce last night.

Both Mr Major and Mr Patten emphasised the work the government had to do before an election, although an attack by the Tory chairman on Labour defence policies had all the hallmarks of electioneering. "Labour is on the run right across the board," he said. "They are running away from the principles and policies they have enunciated with so much enthusiasm after the last few years. It is not clear what they are running away to."

Mr Patten promised that such pressure on Labour would continue through "autumn, winter and next spring", while Mr Major looked forward to the European summit in Maastricht in December.

Labour, meanwhile, reiterated its call for an immediate poll. "If the government is confident, let them have an election," the shadow Chancellor, John Smith, said. "If they do not have an election in November, it is clear they are frightened."

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No show: tourists seeking tickets being greeted with a "closed" sign at the Keith Prowse booking office in Coventry Street, central London, yesterday

## £15m debt shuts Keith Prowse

By ANGELA MACKAY



RECEIVERS were yesterday appointed to Keith Prowse, the world's oldest and biggest ticket agency, endangering thousands of tickets purchased in advance to West End theatres and the Ryder Cup golf tournament.

Keith Prowse, which boasted a turnover of £160 million in 1989, collapsed with debts of at least £15 million after the sharp downturn in tourism caused by the Gulf war. Grant Thornton, the accountants who were appointed receivers by the

company's main creditor, the Royal Bank of Scotland, said Keith Prowse's liabilities could run to "tens of millions of pounds". They also said the majority owners, Ranjit and Devindra Anand, and Paul Burns, were "shattered" and had no choice but to agree to receivership.

The two businesses affected are Keith Prowse and Co and Keith Prowse Hospitality. A third subsidiary, Expotel, was sold yesterday to Modern Group.

Rivals mourn, page 2

## Croatia calls up a rag-tag army without guns

The brave young volunteers in their nondescript kit believe that fighting alone can save their homeland. Anne McElroy writes from Zagreb

Lounging outside the Zagreb exhibition centre, the gaggle of young men have doffed their new caps with the Croatian insignia at a jaunty angle to ward off the midday sun.

In khaki bags at their feet are the rest of their newly acquired mix-and-match uniforms: old boots and belts plundered from the stores of the federal army, ragged flak jackets from the territorial defence contrasting with pristine camouflage shirts newly delivered from a Canadian donor. "Now we have the clothes," one said, "but we need guns as well to be real soldiers."

The city has called up its 5,000 volunteer reservists for registration as Croatia prepares to mobilise all of its forces for the full-scale war with Serbia it now believes to be inevitable. The men are frustrated at being sent home to await the call to arms. "Politics is finished," one volunteer said, "now only fighting will save Croatia."

But Miroslav Biogloja, deputy chief commander of forces for the Zagreb area, just shakes his head. "We can prepare them, but we cannot send them anywhere without weapons." He talks enthusiastically of the handful of Serbs and foreign recruits, mainly Canadians

of Croatian origin, who have volunteered to join up, but he cannot hide his frustration at being in charge of enthusiastic would-be defenders of the breakaway republic without the means to defend it.

The men have all done their national service in the same federal army against which they are now preparing to join battle. The handful not in thrall to the Rambo-myth admit that they have only hazy memories of how to use a gun. "It will come back when the moment comes," one said, hopefully.

Their enthusiasm for the battle to come is unbounded, their nonchalance chilling. Given half a chance, they would march off to face the combined might of Serbia and the military with no weapons at all. The reality of the likely outcome of battles between

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Macedonia vote, page 11



## MAKING A WILL

Why do only 1 in 4 people make a WILL? Why leave problems for your relatives? If you die without making a WILL, the Government may be the main beneficiary - the people you want to benefit may not inherit. A free booklet is now available to take some of the mystery out of will writing. It tells how best to get a WILL written; pitfalls to avoid.

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Name (Mr/Mrs/Miss)  PLEASE PRINT TM 8074  
Address   
Postcode

We will also send you the Society's (free) quarterly magazine Gateway unless you tick this box. ☐

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MAKING LIVES WORTH LIVING  
A VOLUNTARY SOCIETY OF THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND AND THE CHURCH IN WALES

## Suffering the fag end of a communist economy

By DAVID WATTS



Castro: cutting back the public's smoking ration

THE CIA never managed it, and Fidel Castro could never have imagined it: Cuba yesterday became an island with nary a cigar in sight.

Fidel may no longer miss his favourite brand, Cohiba, since he has given up smoking, but the rest of the population will have to search hard for its smokes after the government brought in tough new rationing. The move, announced by the state-run media, was a further heavy blow to the more than ten million Cubans who are among the world's heaviest smokers and who are already suffering from the symptoms of the withdrawal of Soviet underpinning of their island economy.

There are already widespread shortages of practically all food and consumer items because of disruptions to trade with Eastern Europe and the Soviet

Union. Many Cuban smokers already received a fixed quota of cigars and cigarettes in their monthly food ration. But until now they could also buy additional supplies of both in state shops. A government statement blamed the shortages on a huge recent surge in demand for cigarettes - brought on, no doubt, by anguished smokers contemplating the future of one of the world's last communist regimes.

Attempting to fend off criticism, the government also blamed antiquated machinery and lack of spare parts, and threw in for good measure indiscipline and workers' absenteeism. Ensuring a fair and even distribution was preferable to using price rises to regulate consumption, and controlled sales would stop hoarding and black marketeering, the statement said.

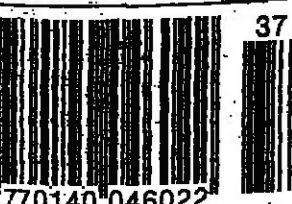
Under the new system, adult smokers who received four packets of cigarettes in

their monthly ration would be allowed to buy only two more packets a month. Those who did not already have a tobacco ration quota would be allowed to buy up to six packets a month.

In recent months, cigarettes, and to a lesser extent cigars, have been in short supply on the local market, causing large queues to form outside kiosks. But Cuba's best cigars and cigarettes are abundantly available to dollar-spending foreign visitors who shop at special tourist stores. This is a source of great resentment to ordinary Cubans, who cannot by law have dollars and so cannot shop there.

It is not clear whether the measures will affect Cuba's exports of tobacco and cigars, prized by communists and capitalists alike, but if exports start to dry up, that will be the worst news yet for the economy of the last Stalinist bastion in the Americas.

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## Earl Spencer denies family clash over sale of art treasures



Viscount Althorp: father denies heated argument

EARL Spencer, father of the Princess of Wales, yesterday denied that she and his other children were angry over sales from his estate at Althorp House in Northamptonshire.

The earl and his second wife, Raine, the former Countess of Dartmouth, have been selling art treasures including silverware, antique furniture, paintings, political papers and estate cottages for years, but yesterday the earl dismissed suggestions that the disposals had caused a family rift.

Talking in the souvenir shop at Althorp, he said of press reports that he and his wife had had a heated argument with his son and heir, Viscount Althorp: "This is

completely untrue. I am most unhappy about all this talk. I do not know how it starts." Lord Spencer refused to discuss the sales of cottages on the Althorp estate beyond saying: "There are a lot of happy tenants buying their homes."

The estate office confirmed that several sales to tenants had been completed since about 40 tenants in four villages were served notice to quit so that their homes could be sold last June. The original asking prices were up to £62,000 but in some cases purchasers have been able to negotiate reductions of up to a third. Mick Dodds, a tenant paying £30 a week for his cottage in Little Brington, said his

Sales of antiques to raise money from the Althorp estate have raised controversy but no argument. Robin Young reports

offer of £40,000 had been accepted.

The sales of estate cottages are only the latest in a series of moves to raise money from the Althorp estate. Sales of works of art from Althorp have been an almost continual cause of concern to art lovers and conservation groups since the earl married Raine, the daughter of the romantic novelist, Dame Barbara Cartland, in 1976. Most of the sales have not been through the auction rooms, but

privately arranged with dealers who have been able to make large profits on their purchases. For example, a large painting by Andrea Sacchi, bought by the first Earl Spencer to be a principal feature of the great salon at Spencer House in London, was sold to dealers for £40,000, but was then sold on to the Metropolitan Museum in New York for almost seven times as much. Salvador Rosa's *The Witches' Sabbath* was sold to Wildenstein for £50,000 in

1982. Two years later it was bought by the National Gallery for £350,000.

The Spencers have sold 11 Van Dycks from Althorp. Other disposals include many of the house's pictures with religious subjects, such as Johann Rotenhammer's *Coronation of the Virgin*, which went via Colnaghi to the National Gallery, Giovanni Benedetto Castiglione's *Noah's Sacrifice*, now in the Los Angeles County Museum, Carlo Dolci's *Marriage of St Catherine*, since sold on by Colnaghi, Francesco Albani's *Holy Family and Angels*, and Il Guercino's *St Luke painting the Virgin*, which was an important absentee from the National Gal-

lery's exhibition of the artist's works in Britain this year. Other items sold include six Athenian Stuart chairs which were given to Partridge Fine Art in Bond Street in payment for restoration of the rest of the set in 1985. The Victoria and Albert Museum bought two of the chairs unrestored for £20,000, and the museum's experts say the rest of the set were spoilt because they were completely gilded where there should have been white paint with only gilt detailing.

Lord Spencer, who looked frail and shaky on his feet yesterday, leaves today with his wife for a holiday in the Aegean.

Selling silver spoons, page 16

## Prison officers walk out of enquiry into mental hospital

By JILL SHEARMAN, SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

THE investigation into the complaints procedure at Ashworth high-security hospital was thrown into turmoil yesterday when the Prison Officers' Association walked out of the enquiry.

Louis Blom-Cooper, QC, the enquiry chairman, asked William Waldegrave, the health secretary, to give the enquiry committee statutory powers to compel witnesses to attend. The association's decision to withdraw was announced by John Hendy, QC, who said members did not believe they were receiving justice.

The first part of the investigation is looking into the death of Sean Walton, a sex offender aged 20, who died in seclusion at the special hospital in Liverpool. A post-mortem examination was inconclusive but last week patients told the enquiry that a nurse struck Walton over the head with a snooker cue three times the night before he died on March 1, 1988.

John Bartlett, the association's national chairman, claimed last night that the witnesses included "those who have brutally murdered a relative, a nine-year-old boy and sexually assaulted children."

Ashworth hospital had patients who were considered

not only to be mentally ill but also a danger to the public, he said. More than 70 per cent of them had committed a criminal offence. "It is a major concern that a witness should give evidence only for it to be discovered afterwards that at the time in question he was considered to be a paranoid schizophrenic." The enquiry did not "afford natural justice" and had not stuck to the rules of procedure established beforehand.

Mr Blom-Cooper, who chairs the Mental Health Act Commission, announced at the start of the afternoon session: "In the light of the statement made by Mr Hendy this morning the committee has decided to recommend to the secretary of state that it should be converted into a statutory enquiry."

The enquiry would await a decision from Mr Waldegrave before hearing further evidence, he said. The health department said last night that Mr Waldegrave now considering a letter from both Mr Blom-Cooper and the association.

Mr Bartlett said later that he was astonished at the committee of enquiry's move to seek statutory powers to compel witnesses to attend. "There's a bloody-minded determination to

press on regardless of natural justice." The association has now asked Mr Waldegrave to set up an independent enquiry with statutory authority to investigate the running of Britain's special hospitals.

In one part of the Ashworth complex alone, assaults on nurses were running at 1,500 a year, he said. Some would never return to work after being stabbed in the back, suffering serious neck injuries or having a cigarette stubbed out in an eye.

Ashley Irons, representing the hospital and the Special Hospital Service Authority, said his clients were saddened that a principal party to the enquiry was no longer present. "We hope they will participate in the enquiry in whatever form and it will start again as soon as possible."

Oliver Thurold, counsel for the patients, said: "We regret it very much indeed if this committee was in any sense impeded or obstructed by what has occurred. We think it essential that it should continue and it is unthinkable that the withdrawal of one party should frustrate the committee of enquiry."

MIND, the mental health charity, attacked the walkout, accusing the association of wanting "power without accountability".



Homeward bound: Igor Korchagin, aged nine, from Russia, with his mother after successful treatment for a rare intestinal disorder by doctors at the Alder Hey hospital in Liverpool. They devised a diet for him including a high protein milk

## Tories are accused of ignoring jobless

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

LABOUR yesterday launched an autumn offensive on the government's record on unemployment by spreading its campaign to include those directly affected by unemployment and those who pay a wider price.

Labour leaders denied that the strategy marked any reduction in what they see as political difficulties for the Conservatives from the issue. Even though the monthly increases in unemployment appear to be slowing - and it is expected to stop rising next year - Labour insisted that the government was turning its back on the unemployed.

The campaign was unveiled in advance of new unemployment figures to be published on Thursday, which are expected to add at least 60,000 to the total, bringing it to about 2.4 million, and the increase in unemployment since it started to rise last year to more than 50 per cent.

Tom King, the defence secretary, yesterday accused Labour of deceiving voters over plans for cuts in nuclear and conventional forces.

Mr King said Labour was trying to avoid coming clean about its plans for a nuclear deterrent and defence cuts. Gerald Kaufman, the shadow foreign secretary, said Labour policy was clear but Mr King could not provide a figure for his own defence cuts.

## Texaco to lift price of petrol by 4.5p

Texaco is increasing forecourt prices for leaded and unleaded petrol by 4.5p a gallon. The move, likely to prompt rises by Tesco's rivals, comes less than three weeks after a round of cuts reduced prices by up to 6.5p a gallon.

Texaco said yesterday that the rise, to come into effect tomorrow, was due to a slight increase in the cost of oil when companies had been expecting a fall. "At the moment, we are not covering our retail costs."

The rise will take Texaco four-star leaded petrol to 50.9p a litre (£2.31 a gallon). Unleaded goes up to 47.3p a litre (£2.15 a gallon). Diesel prices remain unchanged.

A rise in oil prices in recent weeks has been partly blamed by market analysts on international political uncertainty, particularly in the Soviet Union.

BP said that it had made no decision yet on price changes. Shell said that it was studying its prices.

## Open verdict on PC's killer

An open verdict was recorded yesterday on a man found hanged in his cell at Wormwood Scrubs after a jury could not decide whether he had intended to kill himself. Mark Gaynor, aged 21, had been sentenced to a 25 years for the murder of a policeman.

Dr John Burton, the Hammersmith coroner, told the jury Gaynor had left a "suicide note up to a point". He died six weeks later in hospital from brain damage. Gaynor shot PC Laurence Brown in August 1990 after making a hoax call to police.

## Belgium calls for extradition

Belgium has asked The Netherlands to extradite an Irishman arrested in connection with the shooting of a Belgian policeman in December 1989.

Police yesterday said the extradition request concerned Peter McNally, who was arrested in Amsterdam on Sunday and suspected of involvement in the wounding of a policeman in Antwerp. A year after the shooting an Antwerp court imposed a two-year jail sentence on McNally in his absence.

## Gascoigne bail

Charges against Paul Gascoigne, the Tottenham Hotspur and England footballer, were reduced yesterday from assault occasioning actual bodily harm to common assault. Gascoigne, aged 24, of Hoddeston, Hertfordshire, was charged after a brawl in Newcastle upon Tyne on July 13. Newcastle magistrates adjourned the case yesterday and granted unconditional bail. Gascoigne was not in court.

## Tour firm folds

The government came under pressure yesterday to bring forward the introduction of a nationwide bonding scheme for tour operators after a second coach travel company collapsed in less than a week. Beverley Travel Club of Humber, which specialised in cheap holidays, collapsed yesterday stranding 100 tourists in Spain and disappointing two coach loads about to leave Hull and Bury.

## Jail decision

Hampshire police will decide tomorrow whether to prosecute a prison officer at Winchester jail over the alleged smuggling of three imitation firearms into the jail. Andrew Hunter, MP for Basingstoke, has demanded an enquiry.

## Waitress safe

Police said yesterday that Jenna Campbell, a waitress, aged 18, who was reported missing in Spain, had been seen in Lloret del Mar. Her parents, of Corringham, Essex, raised the alarm when she failed to come home.

## Keith Prowse collapse

## Rivals offer condolences but blame under-funding

LONDON'S leading ticket agencies went into public mourning yesterday at the demise of the market leader, Keith Prowse and Co Ltd. Like pathologists, they gathered around the corpse to give their opinion: ambitious, enterprising, but under-funded. Any celebrations over the collapse of a competitor took place in private.

Nicholas Blackburn, sales director of Ticketmaster, said: "I took a call from the chief

executive of Keith Prowse this morning telling me that the receivers had been called in. I was not surprised, just sorry and sympathetic. They expanded without sufficient capital when the rest of us were

engaged in a belt-tightening exercise."

Bill Frost reports on a mood of mourning in an industry hit hard by the recession

Ticketmaster, now the market leader, shed jobs and withdrew plans to buy new premises. It also targeted customers least likely to have suffered from the recession. "We have moved into selling tickets for classical music concerts and Test cricket," Mr Blackburn said. "Unlike casual theatre and concert-goers, these people still have money to spend."

He called yesterday for tighter controls over the ticket agency business. "When we take money from customers booking a ticket, it goes into a separate account. We do not use that cash to pay the company's running costs. That way the ticket is always safe, no matter what happens to the company."

Public confidence in the industry had already been dented by reports that some firms were little better than the touts. Three months ago, the Society of West End Theatre complained that agencies were charging £100 - more if the purchaser spoke with an American accent - for a seat not to see a hit musical: the theatre-goers would find themselves high in the gods and stuck behind a pillar.

Mr Blackburn attacked such profiteering and mourned the passing of Keith Prowse. "They set a high standard. I would much rather have them as a competitor than a now-dead rival," he said.

Like Koller-Royce, Keith Prowse began as a partnership between two men. Robert Keith and William Prowse founded a music publishing business in Chesapeake 200 years ago. As a favour to wealthy city merchants, they made bookings for boxes at Covent Garden to see the Royal Italian Opera. An army of runners took bookings and delivered tickets, and a business was born.

## Golf and rugby fans to lose out

By JOHN GOODBODY AND DAVID HANDS

SPORTS enthusiasts face losing their bookings and money for the Ryder Cup and the rugby union world cup because of Keith Prowse going into receivership.

More than 1,000 golf followers have paid between £1,000 and £10,000 to Keith Prowse for packages to watch the Ryder Cup, which begins in South Carolina on September 27. Forty people had booked to fly on Concorde with the European team. A spokesman for the Association of British Travel Agents (Abta) said that they had been booked with Keith Prowse Outbound, which was not affiliated to Abta, and were not protected.

The offices of the four rugby unions in Britain and Ireland were inundated with calls yesterday from companies paying Keith Prowse for corporate hospitality packages during the world cup, to be staged next month. Dudley Wood, the Rugby Football Union secretary, said that he had warned the world cup organisers, Rugby World Cup (RWC), a month ago of doubts over the agency's financial stability and that, as a consequence, no tickets had been given to them.

David Redfern, a spokesman for the CPMA Group, commercial advisers to RWC, said that tickets would be

distributed to rugby supporters in the normal way, through the home unions. "The hospitality is affected and we are trying to work on a solution to that," he said.

A package for the final, including lunch, tea, drinks and a ticket, was being sold for £375. However, Keith Prowse had insisted on companies buying ten tickets for preliminary pool matches to obtain just one ticket for the final, an estimated cost of £3,200.

According to the receivers, the All England Lawn Tennis Club, which organises Wimbledon, has not been paid in full for this year's event nor have the organisers of Royal Ascot. The effects of the recession have cut into corporate hospitality budgets and Keith Prowse's subsidiary made heavy losses for the first time this year.

Keith Prowse has been the official agent for the All-England Club since the 1924 Wimbledon championships. This year, it sold about 500 tennis packages a day to foreigners, predominantly Americans and Germans.

Most foreigners have been able to see the annual championships only by buying a package from Keith Prowse including flight, hotel room, and a ticket for either the Centre or Number One court.



## FOR SPECIES IN DANGER

Every day up to 50 wildlife species face extinction and many more are in danger. The World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) is working to stop this. WWF's call for an ivory ban helped stem poaching, but we still need £2 million this year for elephant protection projects in many African countries. WWF has helped treble the Indian tiger population since 1975. WWF's campaign to stamp out illegal trading in wildlife in Thailand is forcing the Thai Government to introduce new legislation.

WWF has supported over 5,000 projects in 130 countries since 1961. In the UK alone there are currently over 200 projects. Canford Heath, home to some of Britain's rarest wildlife, could now be saved from developers following a recent High Court case sponsored by WWF, which resulted in Government intervention.

WWF can do more, but we need your help now. All you have to do is Walk! Nearly 400 WWF sponsored walks have been organised across the UK, they are fun family events. You can choose where or how far you want to walk, or alternatively you can make a donation. Please send for your sponsor form now.

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Card No.....

Expiry Date.....

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Please tick if you would like a free copy of the WWF Gift Catalogue which is available from July with many exclusive gifts with a Species in Danger theme.

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## Swindler is saved from jail by work as foster parent

A FINANCIAL consultant who played a leading role in a major mortgage fraud walked free from court yesterday when a judge said society owed him something for his remarkable service as a foster parent. The trial judge said Nigel Ferris, aged 54, would normally have received a four-year jail term but paid tribute to his services to deprived and abused youngsters.

"The community owed you something; you have now got it back," said Judge Kenneth Cooke at Southwark crown court. The court heard that he was in league with Elizabeth Saad, a businesswoman, who dishonestly obtained loans to buy more than 76 homes, with advances totalling more than £8 million. Ferris, of Chalfont St. Giles, Buckinghamshire,

also helped businessman Kamal Madkour to obtain mortgages for six properties. Madkour used the money to buy in 1987 the Burlington hotel in Eastbourne, the foundation of a chain that later failed. Both Saad and Madkour fled the country in 1989 to escape arrest.

Sentencing Ferris, who admitted three counts of conspiring to obtain by deception between 1985 and 1989, Judge Cooke said he was treating it as a wholly exceptional case. Since Ferris's arrest he had helped police to unravel the plot, and despite receiving threats to himself and his family, he had given evidence against a co-defendant.

"It is quite clear you saw what others were doing and

got on to the bandwagon," said the judge, adding that Ferris had fallen under the influence of Saad "who exercised a powerful influence on those around her".

The loans had been repaid through the sale of the properties and the lenders had not lost out. Ferris was left penniless after going into business with Saad.

Judge Cooke said: "What I read is a remarkable list of service to the community - as a fosterer with your wife and fostering those who were abused and deprived, who must have been very difficult to deal with. He quoted the late Lord Birkett: 'A man's character is like a credit balance at the bank from which he can draw from time to time.'"

Saad's uncle, Morris Bekhor, who helped his niece obtain loans for three properties, was sentenced to 12 months suspended for two years. Bekhor, aged 50, of Hendon, applied for the mortgages under his own name, but the properties were later leased by his niece.

Saad, aged 33, fled to Israel last year with her lover Anthony Newman, leaving her £300,000 home in Maida Vale. Her husband Erez is also on the run and believed to be in Egypt. Detectives have issued warrants for the arrest of all three, and attempts to extradite Saad are under way.

Saad took over her father's estate agent's business in Kilburn before selling out and forming her own company, Abbot Harrington, an estate agent's and commercial property letting agency. In three years, police believed she accumulated 76 properties worth more than £8 million. All were bought using residential mortgages before being let.

She never made any repayments on the loans, taken out with several building societies and other institutions. It is alleged she used her own name, her maiden name, her husband's name, and their joint names.

Police are investigating more than 1,000 cases of mortgage fraud involving losses of £500 million to banks and building societies. In greater London alone, the Metropolitan Police, which has a mortgage fraud squad of 17 officers, has a caseload of 800 involving £335 million.

## Dead couple's son answers appeal

By CRAIG SETON

THE son of a nuclear physicist and his wife who were axed and knifed to death in their cottage was speaking to detectives in Bath last night. Christopher Gore, aged 26, a former Bath university student, came forward in response to a police appeal.

Dr John Gore, aged 58, and his wife Ruth, aged 56, were found dead on Sunday at their 100-year-old Cotswold stone cottage on the outskirts of Tetbury, Gloucestershire, less than two miles from the Highgrove home of the Prince and Princess of Wales.

Firemen had answered an emergency call from the couple's daughter Catherine, aged 25, who became suspicious when she called at the cottage. A fire that had started inside was already out. Forensic scientists conducted tests to establish whether it was connected with the killings.

Det. Supt. Hart said at a press conference in Stroud yesterday that the couple had been found in upstairs rooms after an "horrendous" attack with a domestic knife and a long-handled axe. The weapons were found later.

A post-mortem examination showed that the Gores suffered severe axe and knife injuries to the head and that

they died probably between 3pm on Saturday and 3.45pm on Sunday. Mr Hart said the killer's clothing would almost certainly be bloodstained.

Dr Gore, a physicist who worked as radiological protection manager at Berkeley power station nuclear laboratories in south Gloucestershire, was due to receive a 30-year service award today from his employers, Nuclear Electric. Dr Les Mitchell, his supervisor, said: "We had known each other for 20 years. His work involved researching the effects of low-level radiation on people and advising on safety measures."



Dr Gore: due to receive a long-service award

## Soldier 'refused to fight'

By PETER VICTOR

A soldier who refused to fight in the Gulf war and went absent without leave had signed a declaration warning him that leaving his post would be treated as desertion, a court martial was told yesterday.

Gunner Vic Williams, aged 28, left his post in Dortmund, Germany, in December 1990, just before he was to fly to the Gulf. He went back to England and gave himself up to the military police after 72 days.

While on the run he addressed a 20,000-strong peace rally in Hyde Park and expressed his anti-Gulf war views on a BBC television programme. He appeared at the court martial in Woolwich, south London, charged with desertion and two counts of conduct to the prejudice of good order and military discipline. Gunner Williams denies the charges. The hearing continues today.

## Social work staff kept from children

SOCIAL workers flown in to Orkney to help in the series of dawn raids earlier this year were told to stay away from the children because it was felt that they were getting too close to them, it was disclosed yesterday.

Four Orkney social workers were so worried by the treatment of the children and the implications for their department that they wrote to their bosses expressing their fears, the child abuse enquiry, before judge Lord Clyde, was told.

Mary Finn, one of the Orkney field social workers involved in removing two children from their home, said that the evening after the children had been taken to their temporary foster homes Sue Miller, a senior Orkney social worker, phoned her to say that the workers drafted in to help were not to see the children the next day because they were becoming too involved with the youngsters.

Mrs Finn told the enquiry that such continuity was good

social work practice and her counterparts from the mainland were unhappy about the instruction.

She said that six days before the children were taken, social workers on Orkney knew practically nothing about any of the families or any of the children. There were no case files on any of the children or the individual families, and, as far as she knew, none was opened before the raids took place.

Mrs Finn said that she and three other staff sent a memorandum to Miss Miller and Paul Lee, the social work director, voicing their concern over the treatment of the children and how the case was being handled.

It said that they felt vulnerable because no arrests or prosecutions had followed the removal of the nine children, and that there were no regular updates within the Orkney social work department about how the case was proceeding. The enquiry continues.

## Scots make green whisky

By PAUL WILKINSON

IT IS enough to turn an Irishman green. The Scots have struck what must be the ultimate blow in the ceaseless battle of pride between whiskey and whisky; they have produced a green scotch. Not environmentally sound, but actually green, and quite by accident.

The *usquebaugh* has been created by the Springbank distillery of Campbeltown, already famous for its rare and esteemed malts, and was the result of an almost forgotten experiment.

Scotch is matured on oak casks, usually ones previously used for sherry or bourbon, sometimes plain virgin white oak, but 18 years ago an enterprising distiller filled two former rum casks with spirit. When they were rediscovered and sampled, they were found to

have an unexplained distinct greenish hue. "Something akin to olive oil, although a very good dram for all that," said Gordon Wright, a Springbank director.

"I must admit we had a bit of a shock when we opened up the casks. We did not know what to expect. But we had not bargained on green," John McDougall, the distillery manager, said.

Even more mysteriously, one cask produced a light coloured whisky while the other was much darker. Because only two casks were filled, the whisky, which will be sold at cask strength of roughly 90 and 100 degrees proof, will be in short supply. Most of the total production of 250 bottles will be sold through the whisky drinker's mecca, Cadenhead's whisky shop in

Edinburgh, at about £50 a bottle.

Neil Clapperton, of Cadenhead's, said: "This is one of the biggest talking points to hit the whisky scene in years. It looks like ginger wine and tastes, well, different. But there is no doubt it is the real stuff."

"There will be those who will be appalled that a distillery has departed from the traditional sherry-bourbon maturation. The colour alone will make them refuse to accept it as whisky. There will be others delighted that there is something completely original. It might create a trend."

If it does, whisky buffs will have to wait quite a while for the next batch. Springbank has no plans to start another 18-year experiment in upstaging the Irish.



Local pride: the Staffordshire Regiment exercising its freedom of Lichfield with a march after the launch of a campaign to save its identity

## Regiment returns to its roots to fight merger

By CRAIG SETON

A CAMPAIGN to save the Staffordshire Regiment from a merger was launched yesterday in Lichfield at the King's Head public house, the "birthplace" of the regiment 286 years ago. It is due to be amalgamated with the Cheshire Regiment in 1993 under the government's options for change programme, which will reduce the

size of the regular army. Former officers and old soldiers gathered to start a Save Our Staffords campaign at the King's Head, where, in 1705, Colonel Luke Lillingston raised the first elements of what was to become the Staffordshire Regiment. Those present included George Lillingston, a former Royal Navy officer and a direct descendant of the founder, the

Earl of Shrewsbury, and local Labour and Tory MPs.

Brigadier John Levey, a retired CO of the Staffords, said that too many battalions were being disbanded under the guise of amalgamation. He said: "The Staffords are a Midland regiment with their own very particular type of comradeship, and the Cheshires are a Liverpool-orientated

regiment. The cultural divide could not be greater. Would the football league accept a Liverpool and Wolves merger?"

After the launch, 180 soldiers of the regiment, based at Whittington barracks, near Lichfield, exercised its freedom of the city, with a march marking its return from the Gulf war, followed by a service at the cathedral.

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## Enquiry told of doubts on Maguire bomb tests

By LIZ JENKINS

THE former Attorney-general, Sir Silkin, had serious reservations about the prosecution of the Maguire Seven on the limited evidence available, the resumed enquiry into the Guildford and Woolwich bombings was told yesterday.

David Clarke, QC, counsel for the enquiry, said that Mr Silkin had voiced his concern over the only evidence being scientific tests for traces of nitro-glycerine in a letter to the Director of Public Prosecutions.

At a meeting arising from the letter, he was assured by Crown counsel and the DPP's representative that the test's reliability was comparable with identifying a person through his fingerprints. However, Mr Clarke told the enquiry that Roger Maitland, the legal assistant, still had serious doubts after the meeting.

Paddy and Annie Maguire, their sons Patrick and Vincent, her brother Shaun Smyth, Giuseppe Conlon and Patrick O'Neill were convicted in March 1976 of possessing explosives and served their various jail sentences. Mr Conlon died in jail.

In July last year Sir John May, a retired Lord Justice of Appeal, concluded in the interim report of his enquiry that the convictions were unsound on several grounds. He recommended that the home secretary refer the case to the Court of Appeal, which in June this year quashed the convictions on the grounds that the Crown could not exclude the possibility that the defendants had been innocently contaminated.

The enquiry reopened yesterday at the New Connaught Rooms, Central London, to investigate the decision to prosecute the Maguire family and their associates, and whether the decision to proceed on the strength of scientific evidence alone was consistent with general policy at the time.

Mr Clarke said Crown

counsel and the DPP representatives visited the Royal Armaments Research and Development establishment at Woolwich, southeast London, to see how the thin layer chromatography test for the presence of nitro-glycerine was carried out on samples from swabs, the week before Mr Silkin's consent was sought for the prosecution. Mr Maitland, who while working in the Law Officers' Department received a scientific training, passed on his doubts about the test to Mr Silkin.

Sir Michael Havers and Michael Hill (Crown counsel) advanced the Woolwich theories that traces of nitro-glycerine found under nails could only come from kneading the substance like dough or suggested a finger had been used to force in a detonator. The two men also suggested no traces of explosives had been found in the house because plastic sheeting had been used.

Mr Maitland noted that Michael Jardine, the deputy DPP, said there were no possibilities of innocent contamination except remote ones such as everyone using the same towel. He added that Woolwich results had never been successfully challenged in the courts.

The enquiry continues today.

## Colour and life return to Roman mural after 1,600 years

ADRIAN BROOKS



Tony MacKenna working on the Roman wall painting yesterday, and an artist's impression showing how it will look after restoration

By SIMON TAIT, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

THE most important Roman painting to be found in Britain, never before seen in public, is to be restored to its original appearance while it is on exhibition. The fresco goes on display from today at the Museum of London with Tony MacKenna, an archaeologist who has specialised in conserving Roman objects, bringing it back to life over the next two months.

The wall painting was made in about AD 120 and was found in 1983 by a team from the museum's department of Greater London archaeology beneath the remains of the medieval Winchester Palace, near Southwark Cathedral. The wall had been overpainted in the third century and the building demolished a hundred years later, as the Roman empire itself began

to crumble, with the plaster bearing the painting falling face down.

It lay undisturbed for 1,600 years until Mr MacKenna, a member of the team, recognised the possibility of an important find from the symmetry of the way the slabs of plaster had fallen, and reassembled the fragments.

He said yesterday: "This is the most important Roman painting to be discovered in this country, in terms of the standard of workmanship. There is a view that once reassembled a piece like this should not be touched any more, but it is so important that to leave it unrestored would be almost a crime."

Since its discovery and reassembly, the Winchester Palace Roman wall painting has been in store, and its display and restoration are

costing the museum about £15,000. The painting was a key which turned the lock on Roman Southwark, according to Brian Yule, the archaeologist who led the dig. The quality of the work was such that the artists and the pigments were probably brought from Italy to do it. The dominant red pigment was made from a mercuric sulphide called cinnabar, or minium to the Romans, which cost nine times more to buy than ordinary red pigment.

Harvey Sheldon, head of the department, said: "This discovery is an illustration of the importance of having a team with long experience of working in an area. Without it, and without Tony's hunch, we might have lost the painting."

Other Roman baths have been found at Billingsgate, Huggin Hill and Chesapeake, but this one appears to have been built for a kind of officers' mess for the seniors members of the governor of Britain's cohort, which was effectively his colonial civil service. In another part of the building an inscription naming some of the soldiers was found. The first signs of the Roman south bank of the Thames was found near by.

The painting is an architectural fantasy showing a portico with colonnades decorated with garlands and an adult Cupid standing at its centre. "There has been a belief that these paintings were rather dull in colour," Mr MacKenna said, "but the evidence is that they were vibrant polychromes. The bright colours we see now are very nearly what they would have been almost 2,000 years ago."

## Heart flutter cure offered

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

THOUSANDS of people suffering from rhythm disturbances in the heart can now be cured using a technique that can be carried out under local anaesthetic, a consultant cardiologist at St Bartholomew's hospital, London, says.

Last week for the first time in Britain, the technique was used on a patient suffering from a condition known as AV nodal tachycardia. The woman, who had suffered from the condition for many

years, was treated successfully, the cardiologist, Anthony Nathan, said. Almost all patients who suffered palpitations but had otherwise healthy hearts could now be cured, he said.

The treatment involves passing a fine wire through a catheter into the heart, from a vein or artery in the groin. The wire is positioned using x-rays, and electrical signals are passed down it, heating the tip and destroying the piece of tissue in the heart responsible

for the rhythm disturbances. The condition affects up to 50,000 people in Britain.

Children with inoperable brain tumours are being given an experimental form of radiotherapy that offers more success, with fewer side-effects than conventional treatment.

The therapy involves a device called a linear accelerator, which delivers concentrated beams of radiation to the tumour without affecting the rest of the brain.

## Tactical snag faces women who would be priests

With more than 600 Anglican women seeking ordination, the opposition is under renewed pressure, writes Ruth Gledhill

IF WOMEN are to succeed in becoming priests in the Church of England, it will be by outflanking carefully orchestrated and vociferous campaigns designed to defeat next year's legislation. One group's opposition to women priests will climax in London next year, with an open-air communion service at Wembley Stadium for more than 100 traditionalist bishops and 12,000 supporters.

As the dissent grows, previously unpublished figures show that the number of women wanting to become priests has topped 600 for the first time. The 44 women of incumbent status earn up to £12,100 a year, as much as men, while the 605 women listed as assistant staff earn an average of £11,445, slightly higher than the £11,372 earned by their 1,338 male equivalents.

Cost of Conscience, which has 3,500 Church of England clergy on its books and is proposing "alternative episcopal oversight" for those unable to accept women priests, aims to swing the waverers in their favour when the vote reaches the general synod.

The group is supported by the Ven George Austin, Archdeacon of York, who this week called for the church to split formally along the lines of its traditional and liberal factions. He is also on the steering committee of the Association for the Apostolic Ministry (AAM), which wants the legislation defeated.

Twenty-four hours after Mr Austin drew up the battle lines in York Minister, where he was promptly attacked by his own Archbishop, Dr John Habgood, for "serious exaggerations which I suspect are intended to shock people", the AAM fired its own broadside.

Maurice Chandler, AAM chairman and a former member of the general synod's standing committee, said: "The results of the voting in the 18 dioceses to date give no mandate for the final approval of the legislation." In fact, 16 dioceses voted in favour and two against. Mr Chandler added: "There must be great concern at the fact that in those dioceses where strong support for the legislation was registered, the attendance of members of the diocesan synod was low."

Oswald Clark, a member of the AAM steering committee, said that the legislation lacked authority, was divisive and would be an "ecumenical impediment". He added: "It is inherently unfair and totally biased against those who maintain the traditional view."

At the end of this week, John Gummer, Conservative MP and a supporter of the Church in Danger group, which draws support from both parliamentary houses, will address the Prayer Book Society's annual general meeting. He said: "If you say that that which was not true in the first century is true today, you cannot be an orthodox Christian."

The issue is not one that can be viewed in terms of gender: with 6,000 members, Women Against the Ordination of Women (WAOW) is equal in

size to the Movement for the Ordination of Women (MOW). Margaret Brown, of WAOW, said she fully supported the Archdeacon of York: "If you join a club, you have to abide by the rules. The church does not have any rules any more."

The growing body of women deacons takes heart from the traditionalists who recently pledged their support. The Rev David Hunt, of All Saints, Margaret Street, London's flagship Anglo-Catholic church, helped to launch the Affirming Catholicism group which has the support of leading bishops.

Mr Hunt said: "As an Anglo-Catholic I am convinced that we can hold the Church of England together and live with our differences as we have learned to do ever since the Reformation." The Bishop of Manchester, the Rt Rev Stanley Booth-Chibborn, said he believed that the "great majority" of Anglicans thought that women should be priests.

The Rev June Osborne, a member of the general synod's board for social responsibility, said: "There have been many times when the supporters of the ordination of women have been tempted to split from the Church of England and yet have not done so but have stayed, with their frustration and hurt. They are asking the Archdeacon of York to accept the same fate."

Silent voices, page 16

## Cigarette advert deal condemned

The government has been criticised over an agreement with the tobacco trade, signed yesterday, under which shop-front advertising for cigarettes will be cut by 50 per cent over five years (Jill Sherman writes).

Michael O'Connor, of the Coronary Prevention Group, said the failure to ban the advertising was "yet another shameful chapter in the government's collusion with the tobacco industry".

## Car race arrests

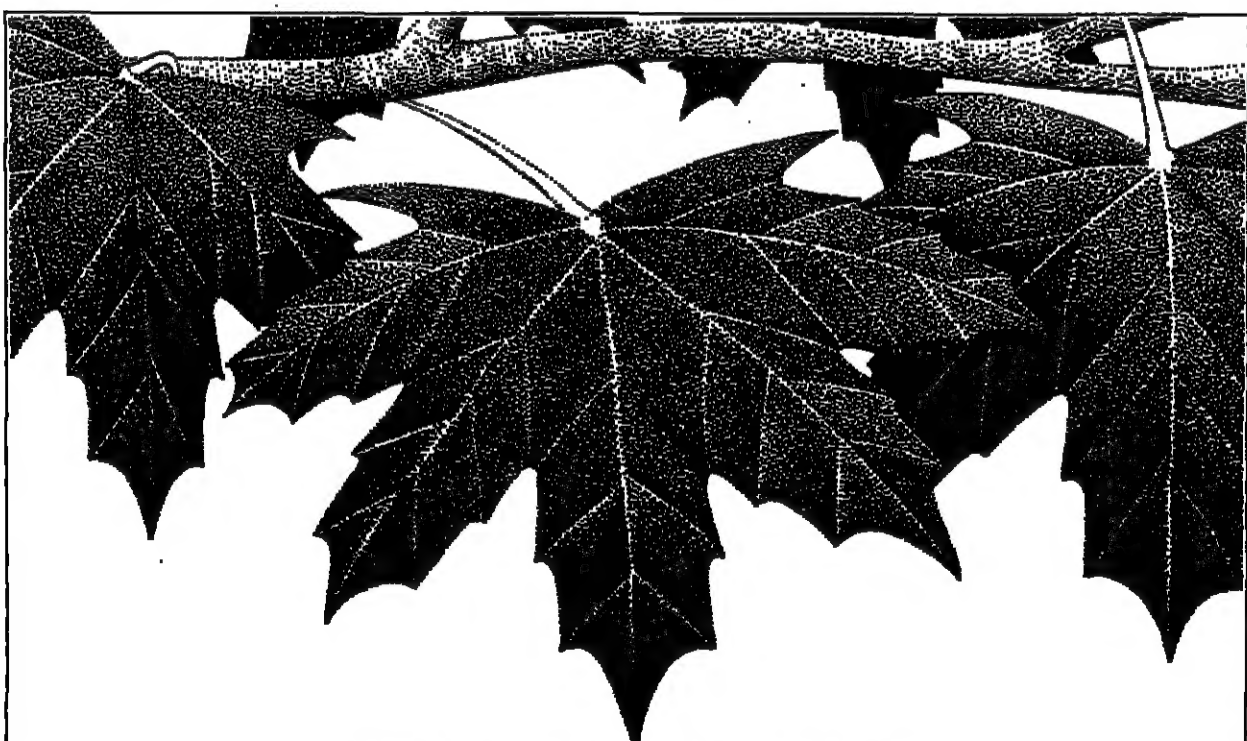
Eight men were arrested early yesterday after a stolen car was raced on a housing estate in Littlemore, near Oxford. The car was set on fire after being raced in front of a small group of people, police said. Six of the men were later freed on bail.

## Coach death

A courier with Cosmos Travel, Michael Slade, aged 47, of Frinton, Essex, was killed and two holidaymakers from Derbyshire are in hospital after their coach collided with a jackknifed lorry 80 miles from Malaga, Spain. Eight other passengers were injured.

## Briton killed

Deborah Levy, aged 25, of Gravesend, Kent, was killed three hours after arriving in Australia when she stepped backwards while having her photograph taken at sunrise on a cliff overlooking Darwin Harbour and fell 80ft.



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## Essex homes may get Trent water

By JOHN SEAW

WATER from the river Trent in Nottinghamshire could be supplied to households in Essex in the future via a series of pumping schemes, the Anglian region of the National Rivers Authority announced in Peterborough yesterday.

The option is one of two that are aimed at augmenting water resources in East Anglia, the region with the fastest growing population in Britain. The other is a possible new reservoir at Great Bradley, near Newmarket, Suffolk.

The authority has invited four engineering consultants to submit proposals for the projects. The successful firm is expected to be appointed in the autumn with the study and final report completed towards the end of 1992.

The firms are being asked to

examine increasing the capacity of the existing pumping scheme from the Trent to the rivers Witham and Ancholme to serve a growing demand in Lincolnshire. A second stage would assess the cost and environmental implications of transferring Trent water from the Witham southwards to the Ely Ouse-Essex scheme. This could enhance supplies available in an area, from Norfolk to Essex.

The possibility of a new reservoir at Great Bradley, a village on the upper reaches of the river Stour, was first investigated in 1970, when it would have cost about £20 million. Eight options were examined then ranging from a reservoir of 15 million cubic metres to one of 104 million cubic metres.

## MORTGAGE RATE

With effect from close of business on 1 October 1991 House Mortgage Rate will be decreased from 11.95% to 11.5% per annum for all existing borrowers. The new rate is effective immediately for new borrowers.

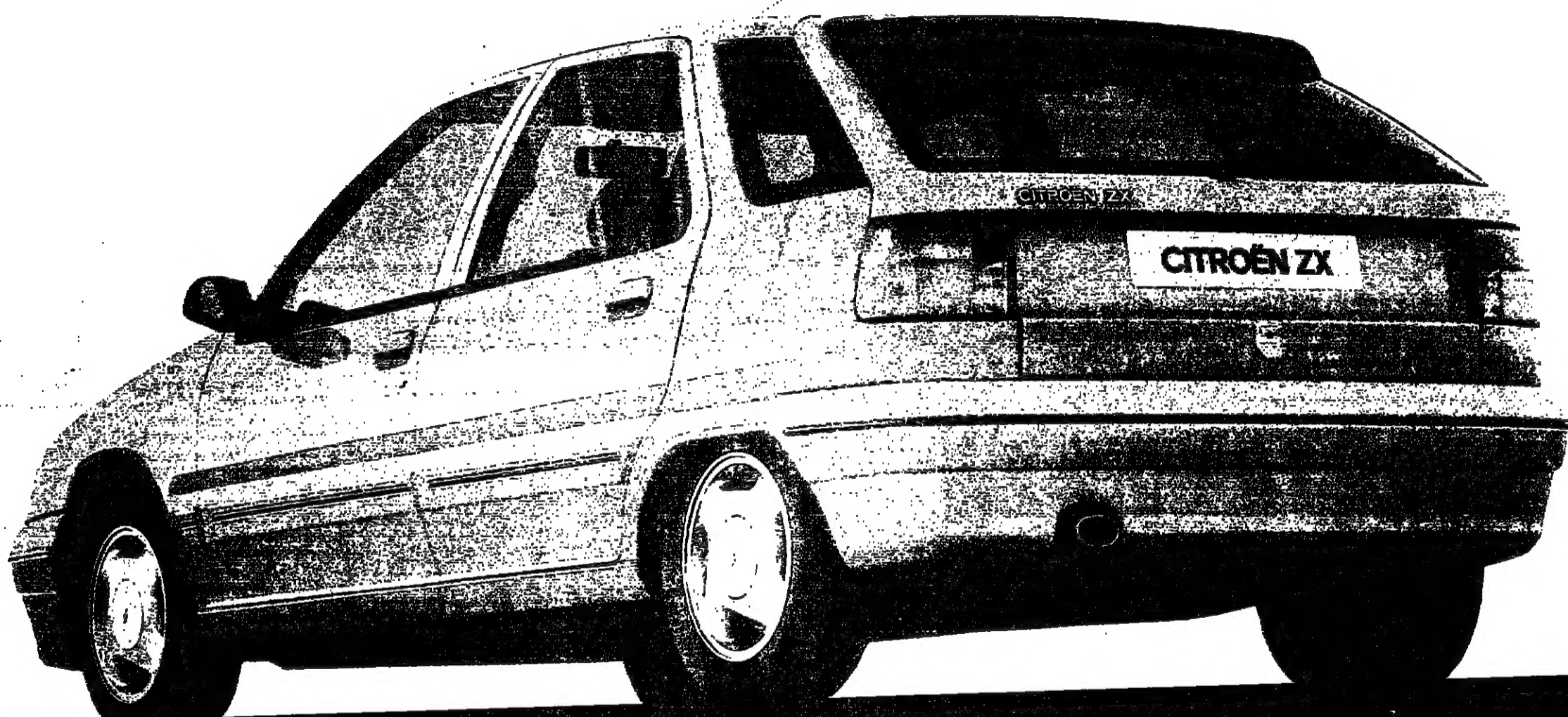


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# Oil operators face closure if safety code is breached

By PAUL WILKINSON

NORTH Sea oil operators face shutdown and unlimited fines and their directors could be jailed for two years if they fail to meet stringent safety regimes being devised with the industry's new watchdogs.

The Health and Safety Commission, which was given responsibility for offshore safety last April, said yesterday that it hopes to have legislation in force by the spring of 1993.

The commission was charged by the government with implementing all of the 106 recommendations contained in last November's Cullen report on the Piper Alpha explosion and fire three

shutdown was "a massive sanction". The safety case would follow a rig, for example, from its design stage through its construction, to use and even ultimately to how it was decommissioned or abandoned. There would also be regular reassessment to ensure that methods were updated.

The commission intends to produce a consultative document early next year and depending on the response to that, it will provide ministers with outline legislation by the summer. A bill could be passed by the autumn, bringing the regulations into effect by late spring 1993.

Once legislation is in place there will be a six-month period of grace for safety cases to be lodged. After that an absolute deadline, probably in 1995, will be set beyond which no installation will be able to operate without its safety case being accepted.

The industry has already spent £1 billion on meeting the immediate requirements of the Cullen report. Full implementation of all the recommendations will cost an estimated £8 billion.

The commission has begun a recruitment drive to provide the inspectors necessary to carry out certification of all the offshore installations. New offices have been acquired in the centre of Aberdeen, where more than 100 new staff will work on the task. So far, jobs have been offered to 39 applicants and a second batch of interviews is being undertaken.

Tony Barrell, chief executive of the offshore safety division of the commission's regulatory arm, the Health and Safety Executive, discounted suggestions that he faced problems finding staff. "Skilled professional people we require are in short supply and we are competing with the oil companies, which want people to prepare safety cases for us, but we can progress gradually. We cannot train everyone at once," he said.



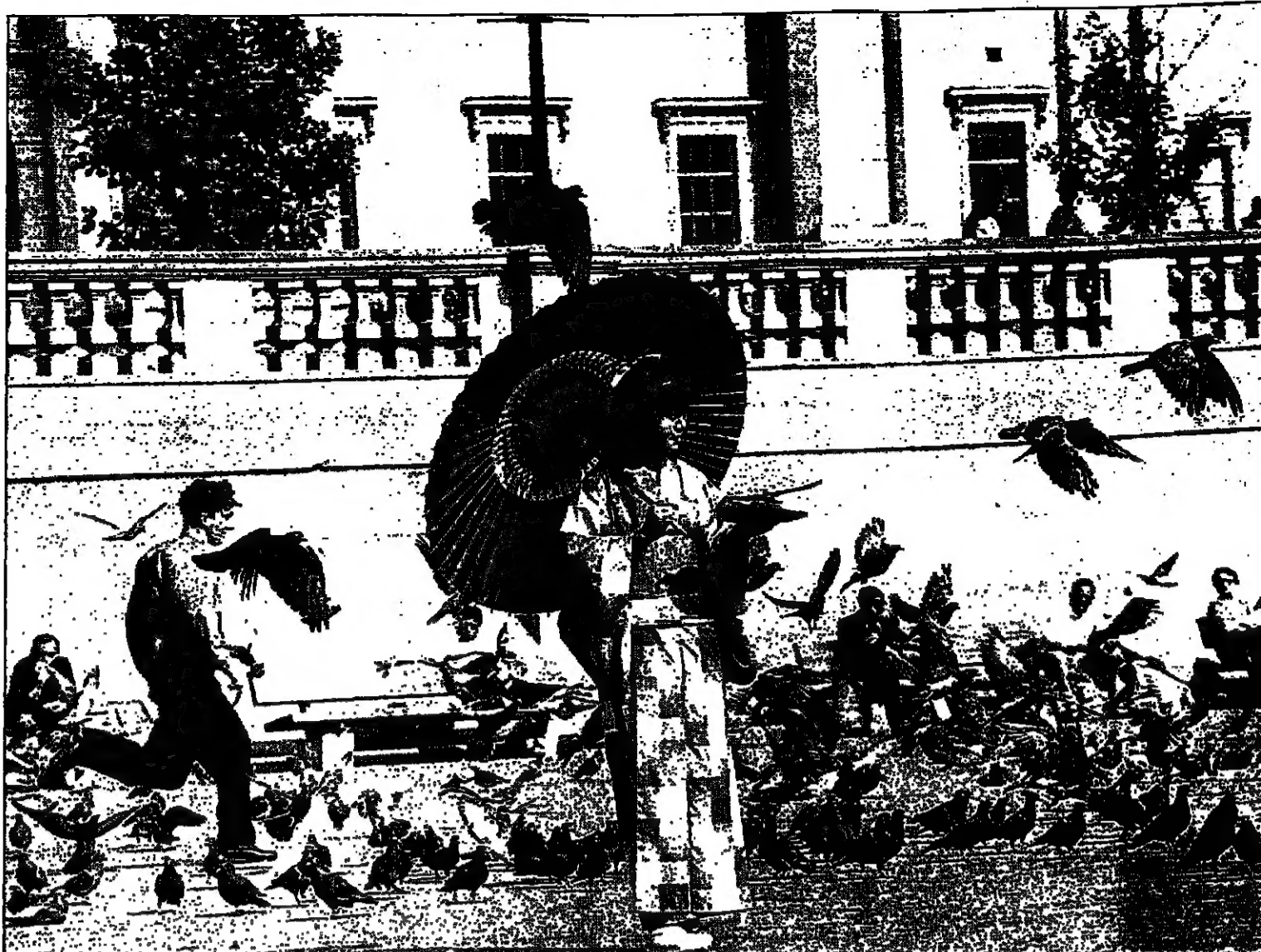
Sir John: safety case for every installation

years ago in which 167 people died.

Sir John Cullen, chairman of the commission, said that its priority was the development of "safety cases" for each of the 272 installations operating in and around the North Sea.

A safety case is a document agreed jointly with the operator and the commission delineating all possible accidents that could occur on individual installations, how they should be averted or tackled. It also covers evacuation and rescue arrangements. Sir John said that discussions with the operators as well as unions were advanced. Two operators had already submitted cases and up to 10 will be dealt with in the next few months.

He said that the threat of



Taste of Japan: Mio Nakajima, in traditional dress, offering Japanese delicacies yesterday to any Britons who might be sampling with the tourists and pigeons in Trafalgar Square, part of the build-up to the official opening of the Japan Festival 1991 on Monday next week

## New diplomas will bridge vocation and academic gap

By DAVID TYTLER, EDUCATION EDITOR

PUPILS wanting to qualify for the advanced diploma to be introduced in 1994 will have to show high levels of literacy and numeracy under proposals announced yesterday by Tim Eggar, the education minister.

Universities would still be able to admit students on the traditional three A-level passes but candidates who could not offer the new diploma would be asked to explain their reasons. "I very much hope the advanced diploma will come to be accepted by universities, polytechnics and employers who will look very carefully at people who have not decided to apply for it," Mr Eggar said.

Two new diplomas, at ordinary and advanced level, are designed to bridge the divide between academic and vocational courses. They will be open to mature students and will be the new route into further training, employment or higher education.

The government's proposals, sent yesterday to employers, schools, universities and polytechnics, envisage an ordinary diploma being awarded to students who have four GCSEs or equivalent at national curriculum level seven, including English and mathematics. (In 1994 GCSEs will follow the national curriculum grading of one to ten, with grade seven being

roughly equivalent to the present C).

The ordinary diploma would be available to those with a general or specialist occupational National Vocational Qualification equivalent to GCSE grade seven.

For an advanced diploma, the government envisages requiring evidence of suitability for most degree courses and jobs requiring a similar level of ability, and suggests the traditional two A-levels or NVQ level three.

Mr Eggar said that the diplomas formed a part of the government's white paper on education for 16 to 19-year-olds published earlier this year. It would not, however, depend on new legislation and could be introduced without a new bill being passed. "This new system will encourage young people to continue in education after 16 to study for the academic or vocational qualifications needed to gain a diploma and enhanced employment opportunities."

Derbyshire county council is seeking £140 million from the education department to improve its school buildings. A three-year plan includes 16 new or replacement schools and extensions to existing buildings.

## Recession keeps students in class

Failure to find work placements is devaluing the worth of sandwich courses, John O'Leary reports

HUNDREDS of students on some of Britain's most popular degree courses face a wasted year because the number of work placements cannot keep pace with the expansion of higher education during the recession.

Before the summer vacation, staff were forecasting that half of their students on sandwich courses would be without the placements that are the courses' distinctive feature. Returning business confidence and extra efforts by polytechnics and universities have cut the shortfall, but up to 2,000 students may still be disappointed.

Neil Samson, who has completed two years of a business studies degree at Teesside polytechnic, has until Friday to persuade a company to take him for the year. Otherwise, he will find himself taking final examinations a year early without the first-hand experience of work that he was seeking.

The polytechnic ran a publicity campaign and funded a hotline, manned by the students, after finding in June that only half of the 130 on the business studies sandwich de-

gree had placements. All but 15 have found employers, and the rest will be given priority next year.

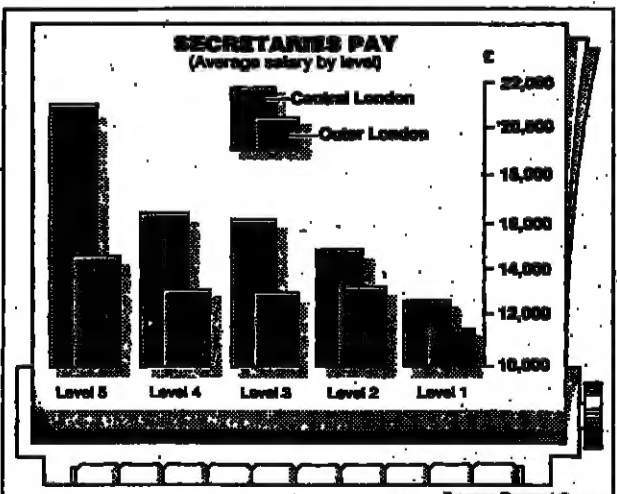
Mr Samson, however, is far from satisfied. "I think it's disgusting. The polytechnic should organise placements itself if they are an integral part of the course and not rely on students to find their own."

Vic Seddon, dean of Teesside's business school, said: "The arrangements have raised a few eyebrows from people who see this as a failure of the polytechnic to meet its obligations, but any polytechnic running sandwich courses is not obliged to find placements but to help students find them. We have done all we can, and have even taken on one of the students to co-ordinate the work for next year."

Teesside's difficulties have been mirrored all over the country, as the recession forces employers to cut back on work experience opportunities just as polytechnics and universities are experiencing rapid growth. Brunel university, northwest London, where almost all the courses follow the sandwich model, failed this year for the first time to find work for all its students.

Sheffield Polytechnic, which has more sandwich students than any other institution, has doubled its requirement for work placements in three years. The polytechnic has seldom failed to place a student, but almost 170 out of this year's 2,000 were still without employers yesterday.

The Confederation of British Industry forecast yesterday that more openings would be available next year as business confidence improved. It said: "Employers are very keen on the idea of sandwich courses and are keen to support them. It is only in *extremis* that they cut back."



## Secretaries' pay beats inflation

By Lucy ROCK

SECRETARIES' salaries in London continue to keep ahead of inflation, with high-flyers earning over £20,000 a year with bonuses.

A survey shows a 13 per cent increase for London secretaries over the past year, compared with an average national rise of 9.3 per cent for clerical workers. Secretaries in central London can earn 17 per cent more than those elsewhere, with national average pay ranging from £9,148 for low-level secretaries to £12,500.

The survey, by the Reward Group, looks at five levels of London secretaries. Duties at the lowest level involve typing, filing, handling out mail, answering the telephone and making simple travel arrangements, and attract a salary of £12,405. Secretaries at level two open and read mail and earn £13,943 to £14,582, depending on word-processing

experience. Level-three secretaries, on £14,783, have organisational responsibilities, arrange meetings and co-ordinate diaries.

A personal assistant to a manager receives £15,279 to £16,372 and screens telephone calls, assists in producing reports and supervises junior staff.

The highest earners, divisional assistants (£16,800 to £19,267), do unsupervised administration.

Forty-one per cent of secretaries in the survey get extra pay for overtime or meal allowances, and 42 per cent receive an average bonus of £595 a year. Some receive perks such as sports facilities or season ticket loans. Only five of 174 organisations questioned give secretaries company cars.

The Survey of Secretarial Staff in London (Reward Group, Stone, Staffordshire; £100)

## Tube train passengers led over live line

Tube train passengers were led along a 440-yard stretch of live track during an emergency evacuation, London Underground said yesterday (Michael Dynes writes). The 630-volt current could have killed any passenger who touched the contact rail.

The danger arose because staff failed to turn off the current when the Central Line service was suspended to enable police to chase an armed man. Thirty-four passengers were led from the train to Leytonstone station on July 26.

London Underground said that a member of staff had been disciplined for a "communications error". It added: "A full investigation has been conducted into the incident, and procedures reinforced to ensure that such a serious error is not repeated."

## Fire blame

A maintenance error and metal fatigue were to blame for a fuel train derailment and fire that caused more than £1 million damage at Bradford-on-Tone, Somerset, in May, a British Rail enquiry found. The accident happened when the axle box of a Gulf Oil wagon, maintained by a contractor, overheated.

## Big catch

Richard Simmonds, a disabled angler aged 28, of Glastonbury, Somerset, landed a 104 lb blue shark after a 45-minute struggle five miles off the coast of Lyme Regis, Dorset. He attributed his success to having strong arms through using crutches.

## Peak of success

Amy Randell, aged ten, of Whitley Bay, Tyne and Wear, is thought to have become the youngest person to climb Mount Kilimanjaro, Africa's highest mountain. She made the climb with her 36-year-old father, Graham.

## Nelson relic

Lord Nelson's prayer book, which he gave to his mistress Emma Hamilton on the eve of his departure to battle with the French fleet in 1799, is to go on display after being bought by the Royal Naval Museum, Portsmouth.

## Pollution fine

South West Metals Finishing, of Exeter, was fined £1,000 by Wexford magistrates for polluting Alphin Brook, a tributary of the River Exe, with cyanide. More than 500 fish were killed by the discharge.

## Sea rescue

Neal Peterson, a South African yachtsman aged 38, was rescued by the Irish navy after being adrift in the Atlantic with a damaged rudder for 15 days during an attempt to sail single-handed from Capetown to Plymouth.

## Flights rejected

An application for commercial seaplane flights from the surface of Windermere was rejected by the Lake District Special Planning Board.

## Death fall

Graeme McFarlane, a teenager of Radcliffe, Greater Manchester, fell to his death through a factory skylight while searching for a lost football.

## Drug charge

Stephen Nuth, aged 35, of London, was charged in Athens with smuggling 4.4 lb of hashish through the city's airport, Greek police said.

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## Landowners call truce over access to country

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

LANDOWNERS have appealed for a truce in the conflict between those who make a living from the countryside and those who want more freedom to roam and play there.

In a report published yesterday, the Country Landowners' Association (CLA) urged joint action by farmers, walkers, sportsmen, local authorities and the government to end legal confusion over the use of footpaths and rights of way and allow more flexibility in creating new paths and diverting old ones.

Ewen Cameron, a landowner from Somerset who chaired the working party that drew up the report, said: "There is a clear desire on all sides for better understanding and less confrontation - access without conflict." The CLA's proposals would create "a new climate of goodwill among all interested in the countryside as a recreational resource", he said.

The report recommends the scrapping of a clause in the 1980 Highways Act that allows a path to be deemed a public right of way after 20 years' informal use. A period of grace, ending in 2000, should be allowed for settling current claims, the CLA says.

Mr Cameron said that, as the law stood, landowners felt they had to confront anyone walking across their property off recognised paths for fear that a precedent might be established. A law that provoked confrontation was in the interest of neither landowners nor the general public and should be abolished. The

CLA wants definitive maps of all footpaths and rights of way to be completed by 2000 and calls for the creation of publicly funded "countryside recreation and access groups" in every county within two years. These would bring together landowners, local authorities, countryside users and statutory agencies to address local grievances.

The CLA's 49,000 members are estimated to own half the privately owned forest and agricultural land in England and Wales. The Ramblers' Association said that landowners should prove bona fides by expelling members who persistently broke the law. The CLA accepted there was "a huge backlog of path maintenance", but said expulsion was not the right approach.

The Rights of Way Act, which became law last year, empowers local authorities to take summary action against farmers who fail to maintain designated tracks across their fields. Paths ploughed when sowing crops must be restored within 14 days and any subsequent disturbance must be repaired within 24 hours.

In a survey in 1988, the Countryside Commission found that a ramblers' chance of completing a two-mile walk along a public footpath without finding it ploughed up, overgrown or deliberately obstructed was no better than one in three. Some 25,000 miles of the 135,000 miles of footpaths, bridleways and byways in England and Wales were unusable.

Leading article, page 17

## 'Crooked finger' beckons public

Birds will not be the only things flocking to Humberside's Spurn peninsula from tomorrow, if a three-year project to marry conservation and tourism is as successful as its organisers hope, Peter Davenport writes

EVEN by those who know and love it best, the Spurn peninsula is often described as the oddest place in England, an improbably thin finger of sand and shingle that juts out into the Humber estuary and is the internationally renowned home of a variety of birdlife and rare flowers.

For the past three years, a project involving local councils, wildlife and countryside agencies has been working to provide greater public access to the area. Tomorrow will see the £150,000 scheme come to fruition with the opening of a footpath through the sand dunes, and other public facilities.

Tim Collins, the project officer, said yesterday that the work had been achieved by all the various agencies and councils working with the private sector and landowners. "No single body

could have done all this alone," he said.

Almost 12 miles of the coastline around Spurn were defined as a heritage coast by the Countryside Commission in 1988, one of 44 such areas in England and Wales. It includes the three-mile "crooked finger" peninsula, only 15 yards across at its narrowest, that stretches from the hamlet of Kinsea to the country's only permanently manned lifeboat station, at Spurn Head. A nearby lighthouse, now a listed building, has been defunct since 1985.

The whole area, according to Mr Collins, has a slightly rundown and neglected appearance, which is part of its attraction.

The Countryside Commission, English Nature, the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust and the councils for Holderness,



Guiding light: Tim Collins walking on the new footpath through the dunes to the lighthouse at Spurn Head

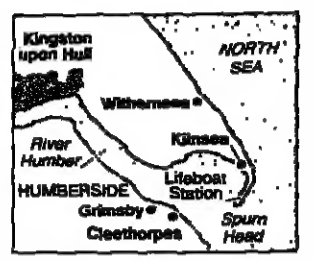
Humberside and Easington agreed a three-year programme with funding of £100,000. A further £50,000 has been raised in sponsorship from industry.

Much of Spurn's fascination lies in its bird life: among the 105,000 birds which winter on its mudflats

each year are nine species whose colonies are regarded as internationally significant. Each autumn sees a spectacular flypast by up to 20,000 birds of single species in one day during the southerly migration.

Up to 150,000 people a year visit Spurn, many of

them drawn by the fact that one day it may cease to exist. Experts have forecast that winter storms will eventually breach the peninsula, leaving Spurn Head as an island. A £28,000 research study is being carried out by Hull university into the implications of a permanent breach.



Baker given suspended jail sentence

## Banks lent cash 'like confetti'

A CHEF who went on a spending spree after inventing a £2 million inheritance to obtain thousands of pounds of credit found that banks offered him services "like confetti". Torquay magistrates were told yesterday (Ray Clancy writes). He tried to buy an expensive sports car and a £180,000 boat.

The banks acted with "astounding naivety" when Gary Baker, aged 25, claimed he had received a solicitor's letter saying he had been left a legacy. He was able to commit deception offences "simply because he had a bank account and could issue cheques," the court heard. Baker, of Torquay, was given a four-month jail sentence suspended for a year.

## Robber is jailed for murders

AN ARMED robber who shot an accomplice and let him bleed to death was given a life sentence for murder yesterday by a judge at the Old Bailey. The Recorder of London, Judge Lawrence Verney, sentenced John Hilton, aged 62, to two life terms and one of 30 years and told him: "Life in your case must mean life."

Hilton, of north London, was captured in December during a £420,000 jewels raid in Piccadilly. He later confessed to shooting dead Leo Grunhut, a jeweller, during a robbery 12 years ago, and his accomplice in that robbery, Alan Roberts.

Yesterday he pleaded guilty to the murders and to three charges of robbery. The court was told that after wounding his partner, Hilton drove him to a deserted garage and let him bleed to death before burying him.

Hilton had served several previous jail terms, including a life sentence for his part in an armed gang robbery at a dairy in Mitcham, South London, when a man was shot dead.

In January 1978 Hilton was freed on licence from prison and in June 1981 was jailed again at the Old Bailey for six armed robberies. He escaped from prison in Portsmouth on October 6 last year.

## Global warming models doubted

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

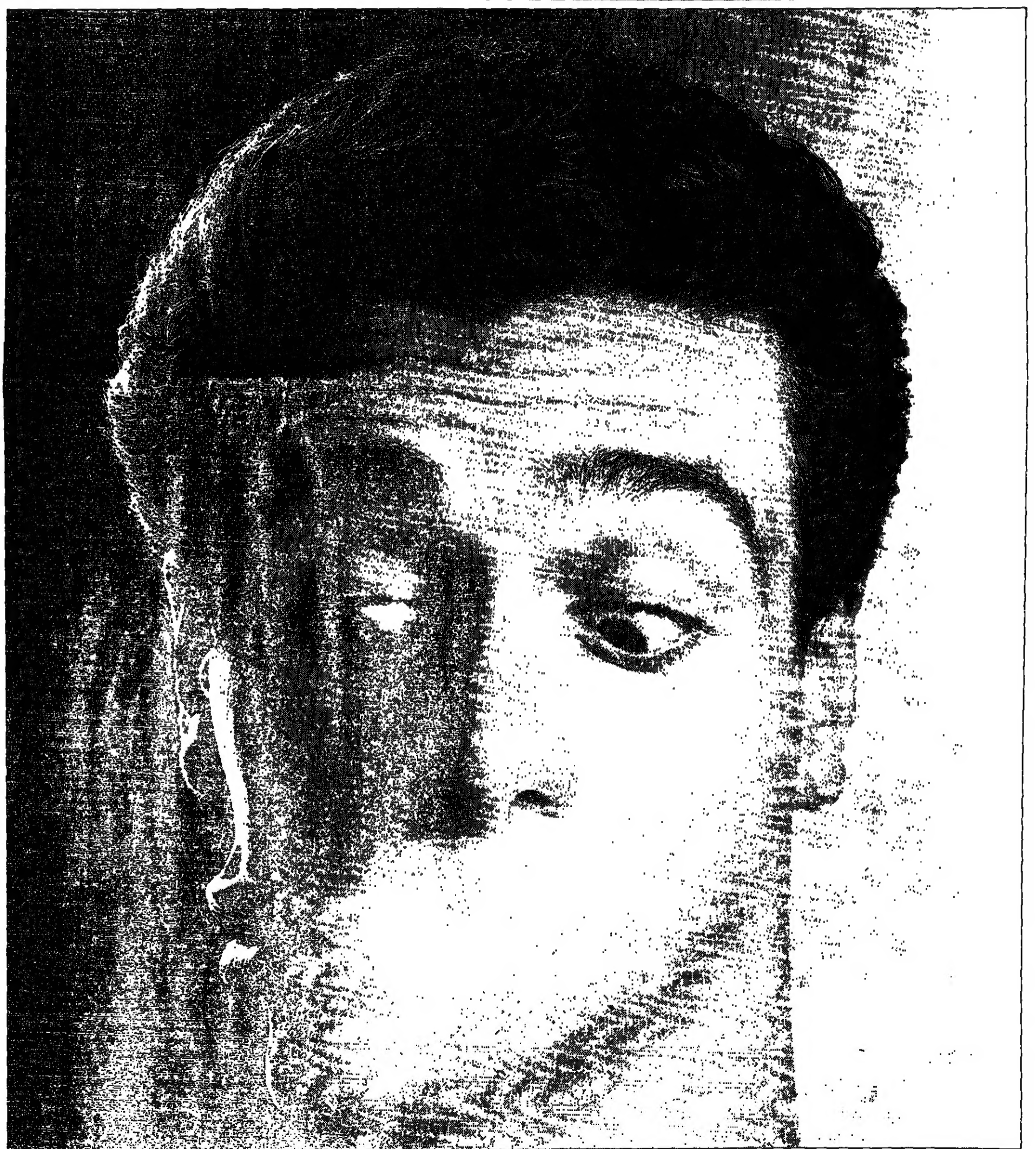
OBSERVATIONS of the temperature of the upper atmosphere by French scientists have cast doubt on the computer models used to predict global warming.

The models suggest that the lower parts of the atmosphere should be warming up as a result of the emission of greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide, and the upper parts - the stratosphere and mesosphere - ought to be cooling. After 12 years of observation, the French scientists can find no evidence of any cooling of the stratosphere, while the mesosphere appears to be cooling at twice the expected rate.

Marie-Lise Chanin and colleagues from the Centre National de Recherche Scientifique in Paris studied the temperatures of the upper atmosphere using a laser beam pointed straight upwards from an observatory in Haute Provence. Reflections of the beam from gas molecules enabled the density and the temperature of the atmosphere to be measured up to 100 kilometres above the ground.

Dr Chanin said yesterday that the models used to predict climate change suggested there would be a cooling of the upper parts of the atmosphere by 20°C (68°F) by the middle of the next century. The greatest effect was expected in the stratosphere, where the laser method has found no changes at all. The mesosphere, between 55 and 75 kilometres above the Earth, has cooled by 5°C (41°F) since 1979, about twice as fast as the models predicted.

The upper atmosphere is likely to cool as heat from the Earth is trapped by greenhouse gases lower down. Dr Chanin says that her results do not prove the models wrong, but suggest that they are oversimplified.



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# Ashdown promises to spend £2bn more on education

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

A LIBERAL Democrat government would spend almost £2 billion extra on education in its first year, Paddy Ashdown promised last night.

The Liberal Democrat leader told a rally at the party conference in Bournemouth that, while his party did not want to raise taxes, they would, if it proved necessary to find that money, put an extra penny on income tax. Although the prospect of the Liberal Democrats gaining power on their own account remains remote at present opinion poll levels, the priority the party is giving to education would be reflected in any hung parliament deal with a larger party.

Under the plan outlined last night by Mr Ashdown, an extra 0.4 per cent of gross domestic product would be spent in three key areas: pre-school education, post-16 education and training and new educational opportunities for adults.

John Major made the raising of educational standards and of the position of teachers in society a theme of his Tory leadership election campaign. Neil Kinnock had previously challenged Margaret Thatcher to put it at the top of the political agenda. Mr Ashdown too is insisting that there is no subject that his party rates more highly, with what the

Liberal Democrats believe to be the most specific promises of any party.

Mr Ashdown said: "The Liberal Democrats will give every child in the land the right to one year's pre-school education". That, he said, would do more to raise standards than a thousand government tests for seven-year-olds.

The second plank of the party's education plan is an expansion of education and training for 16 to 19-year-olds. Mr Ashdown pledged to penalise firms that refused to offer proper job training by saying: "We will oblige all 16 to 19-year-olds in work to follow courses for the equivalent of two days a week". Training, he said, could not simply be left to a market that had failed. There would be a payroll tax on firms which they would have returned provided their young employees received education or training for the specified period.

In the third element of his package, Mr Ashdown said that education had to stop being a conveyor belt with only one point of entry. He wanted to see an entitlement for everybody to be able to re-enter the education system for a period "at a time of their own choosing during their adult lives". That will not

mean that everyone can take a residential university course in their forties, but, based on distance learning costs, it would provide every adult with the right to something like an Open University course.

In another element of the Liberal Democrat education package, Mr Ashdown pledged to reverse the Tory provisions allowing schools to opt out of local education authority control. The party supports the local management of schools, with head teachers and governors controlling their budgets, but argues that opting out had nothing to do with local independence and everything to do with national control.

Mr Ashdown said: "The Liberal Democrats will preserve the decentralisation of our education system. We do not want politicians in Whitehall, whatever their party, to be able to impose their political dogma from above".

In his speech, he added that it was a "national scandal" that the government had neglected to fund the education of a whole generation of young people. Britain had the lowest participation rate in post-16 full-time education and training of any industrial democracy. He criticised the rapid turnover of Tory education secretaries and said that Conservative education policy was not the solution but the problem. Britain needed not "standard assessment tasks" but well resourced primary schools, motivated teachers and pre-school education open to all.

The Tories, he said, did not believe in investment in education. Labour said they would like to spend more, but had priorities rather than commitments.

As for where the Liberal Democrats would get the money from: "This party does not want to raise taxation. But if the only way to make that essential investment in education and training is to put a penny on income tax, then we will have the courage to ask the people to do just that."

Matthew Parris, page 22



Political study: a delegate to the conference in Bournemouth paying close attention to a debate yesterday. Conference photographs, page 22

## Party confident it can outrun Scots Tories

By OUR POLITICAL EDITOR

THE Liberal Democrats claimed confidently at the conference that they would win the forthcoming Kinross and Deeside by-election, a victory that would give them more seats in Scotland than the Conservatives.

Malcolm Bruce, leader of the Scottish Liberal Democrats, told applauding delegates that the party would handily win the seat, in which the late Alick Buchanan-Smith had a majority of 2,063 at the last general election. He said: "That will force the Tories into third place in Scotland with nine MPs behind our ten. Can they still claim democracy gives them the right to steamroller the people of Scotland?"

In an address to the conference, the party president, Charles Kennedy, after paying tribute to Mr Buchanan-Smith's integrity, said that the implications of the by-election would stretch far beyond the constituency's boundaries.

"If we succeed, then the cause of constitutional change in Scotland will be boosted,

elevate their party's electoral short-term self-interest above and before those of the longer term needs of the economy."

Most of Mr Kennedy's scorn, however, was reserved for the Labour party, which he described as becoming "more and more conservative" with an ever more jaded leader. Reminding the audience how John Smith, the shadow Chancellor, greeted every interest rate cut with the call for another percentage point cut, he said that Labour was stuck in a groove. He added: "We have a government whose economic track record is entirely discredited and a Labour party which has long since given up any pretence of having a credible economic policy of its own."

In the vacuumous pas-de-deux of the old parties, he said, the choice was between Thatcherism ameliorated by Mr Major and Thatcherism ameliorated by Mr Kinnock.

Mocking Neil Kinnock's attitude on devolution, Mr Kennedy depicted him as coming from an "intellectual dark age" and facing a future as a "former leader". He predicted that, however tired or provoked they became at the next election, Mr Major would never acknowledge himself as a Thatcherite nor Neil Kinnock as a socialist. They were, he said, "the leadership legacies which dare not speak their name".

Accusing the government of electoral massaging of the economy with their interest rate announcements, Mr Kennedy said: "Major and Lamont are to caution and prudence what Burke and Hare were to eternal rest. They are just another two in a lengthening line of Tories who

## Women's ministry scheme attacked

By JOHN WINDER

LABOUR proposals for a women's ministry were attacked by Tobe Alexander, of Haringey, in a debate on a motion calling for measures to achieve equality for women.

She said that such a ministry would marginalise women's issues into a small corner of a grey block in Whitehall. "A ministry for women would soon become Whitehall's universal dumping ground."

The motion, which was passed, was moved by Jennifer Horne-Roberts, parliamentary candidate for Holborn and St Pancras, who said that the party would extend employment protection laws to the low paid and those with parental responsibilities.

Jennifer Sharratt, candidate for Honiton, said there should be an explicit policy to ensure that fathers took equal responsibility for their children; only sanctions for such equal partnership would give women the opportunity to go to work without feeling guilty.

Vernona Marfo, who said she was the first African-born woman to be selected as a parliamentary candidate, added that one of the most effective ways to produce equality for women would be a statutory minimum wage.

## Finance deal to help members

The Liberal Democrats launched a comprehensive financial package for party members, offering services including personal loans with preferential rates, mortgages, a high interest savings account, and insurance for home, travel and motor vehicles.

Last year the party set up a Visa card for members, known as the "Paddy card" after Paddy Ashdown. The scheme, provided by the Co-op Bank, has been taken up by 8,000 members and brought in about £50,000 for the general election fighting fund.

## Shooting to political fame

The delegates were welcomed by the second Labour mayor of Bournemouth, Lionel Bennett.

Janet Dove, Liberal Democrat candidate for Bournemouth West, replying to the welcome, said that there was a story in the town that the first Labour mayor had been elected during the war by Conservatives who had heard that the Germans were threatening to shoot the mayor of any British town that they occupied after their invasion.

## Federal hope

Willy de Clercq, president of the Federation of European Liberal Democrat and Reform Parties, told the conference that the road to monetary union, a central bank and a single currency might be longer than they hoped, but it was inevitable. Federalism was the key to the vision of the Europe of the future.

## Subscriptions

The conference agreed to keep the minimum subscription rate at £3, but to increase the recommended rate by £1 to £21.

## Business today

The conference will this morning debate wider share ownership, unemployment and economic policy; later debates will be on poll tax, animal protection, HIV and disconnection of water services.

## Leaders harden EC policy

THE Liberal Democrats are planning to toughen their policy on the European Community, fearing that they have given an impression of starchy-eyed naivety on European questions that could cost them votes at the next election.

Party strategists are planning to insert into the election manifesto a provision that European directives should not remain binding but should expire after five years and have to be renewed. Paddy Ashdown, the party leader, is also to make more public criticism of the social charter on which he shares some Tory reservations.

Yesterday, the party conference endorsed a green paper on European citizenship. That ties the Liberal Democrats to the goal of federal union, with the "early establishment of a single European currency and an independent central bank".

The green paper also supports an increase in the powers of the European parliament. But speakers in a lacklustre and disjointed debate were at pains to emphasise that federalism did not mean centralism but a wider dispersal of powers to smaller units of the Community.

The European spokesman, Sir Russell Johnston (Inverness Nairn and Lochaber), said that when European leaders met at Maastricht at the end of the year they would face a changed agenda.

"The tides of chaos are lapping at our walls and to turn back that tide and ensure that prosperity follows freedom through the East, the Community must unite," he said. Only the EC could provide the newly emerging democracies with the physical and financial security they required. They wanted a currency to which they could relate, and that meant the ecu. He added that the principle of federalism was that home rule was a good thing.

Leading article, page 17

Str. Russell agenda on Europe has changed

## CONFERENCE DIARY

## Security takes a back bench

THE Liberal Democrats are saving more than £20,000 for their general election offers by keeping security at the Bournemouth conference to a minimum. Another bonus from the absence of heavy policing and the surrounding of the Bournemouth conference centre with a security cordon is that local residents are much more welcoming to delegates and do not resent the interference with their daily lives that bigger party conferences have caused in the past.

Paddy Ashdown, the party leader, has declined to have heavy personal security, although there is an unobtrusive police presence and bags are being searched before delegates are allowed into the hall.

Another factor that is ensuring the delegates a warm welcome in the town is the local strength of the party that now runs Bournemouth council. My first taxi driver turned out to be a party member, although he admitted rue-

fully that the councillors were less than heroes to his colleagues since they imposed a huge increase in taxi licence fees.

Charles Kennedy, the party president, may have hoped that none of us would do any research into his analogy between political parties and pop groups. In his presidential speech he suggested that Labour was the music of Dire Straits, the Tories of the Simple Minds but the Liberal Democrats were the New Kids on the Block. The joke went down well with delegates, but a young adviser of mine, one of my grand-daughters, assures me that the last-named group is the least good of the three and that the Princess of Wales is a fan of Dire Straits.

A conference resolution condemning slavery passed without dissent on the day when Paddy Ashdown is advertising in *Liberal Democrat News* for an unpaid clerical assistant has led to charges of double standards. Mr

Ashdown is offering a chance to a school leaver to take a year off to work as a volunteer. The idea is to give an insight into party organisation to someone looking for a career in politics. A reference from a party member is required because some of the work is confidential. Some help towards travel and subsistence expenses is all the remuneration offered.

Janet Pickering, who presides over 200 members of the transport union clerical branch in the Commons, said that the practice was already widespread in the House. "We do not approve of people being employed for nothing, but because of their commitment to their parties people offer their services and because MPs' secretarial allowances are insufficient to service themselves, that is what happens."

Alan Leaman, Mr Ashdown's press officer, said that the party was essentially a voluntary organisation. "They do not have to take the job," he added.

## Imported goods have 'hidden blood price'

CARPETS that seem to be sold cheaply in Britain include a hidden price — the blood of young workers — Zerbano Gifford, prospective candidate for Hertsmere, told the conference.

She suggested that products should be labelled where possible to indicate that they were produced without the use of slave labour, just as other products were labelled to indicate that no cruelty to animals had been involved in their production.

She wanted Britain to act through the United Nations to

stop the treatment of children as slaves. When four-year-old children in Britain were starting play school, others of similar age all over the world were starting their careers in factories where their small fingers were working as substitutes for machines.

Half of those children would die of accident, disease and hunger before reaching the age of 12. Some were given heroin as an addiction as effective as the chains that others were made to wear.

The motion was passed without dissent.

The Tories, he said, did not believe in investment in education. Labour said they would like to spend more, but had priorities rather than commitments.

As for where the Liberal Democrats would get the money from: "This party does not want to raise taxation. But if the only way to make that essential investment in education and training is to put a penny on income tax, then we will have the courage to ask the people to do just that."

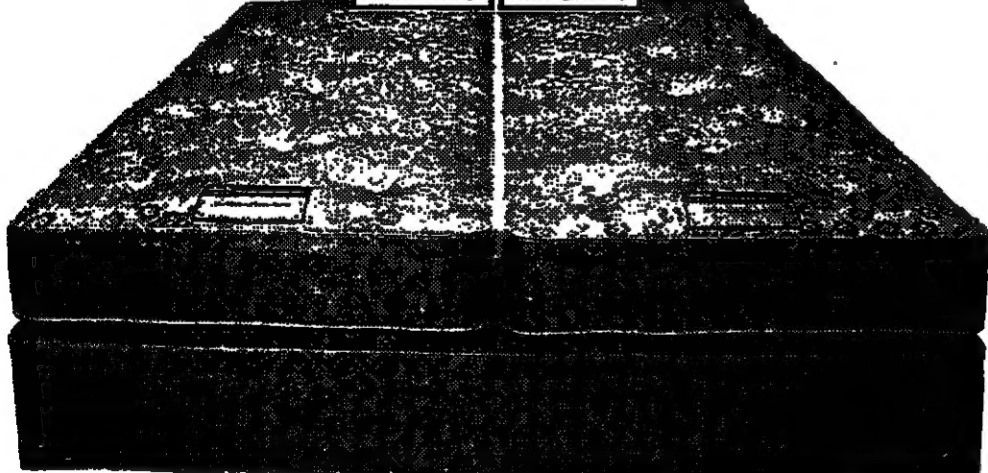
Matthew Parris, page 22

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## Black groups resolve to sign accord in spite of bloodshed

FROM RAY KENNEDY IN JOHANNESBURG

BLACK political groups are adamant that they will pursue a peace agreement with Pretoria in spite of the new round of blood-letting.

Both the Inkatha Freedom party and Nelson Mandela's rival African National Congress yesterday reiterated their commitment to the peace accord due to be signed on Saturday. Both groups and Archbishop Desmond Tutu said they believed the violence was being deliberately orchestrated in an attempt to derail the peace process.

The white right-wing, including the Conservative party, the official opposition

in the white House of Assembly, has declared its intention not to attend the ceremony. As the death toll in the most savage 24 hours of black-on-black political violence in South Africa's townships this year rose to 57 yesterday, the obvious question being asked was who started it and why?

There was an element of sophisticated military planning about the Sunday morning attack on a column of 300 Zulus marching from their hostel in Tokoza township, southeast of Johannesburg, to an Inkatha rally in a soccer stadium. As they entered the township's main street gun-

men opened fire, killing 23 of the Zulus and injuring 18, some of them critically. Whoever carried out the ambush did it with great skill.

Police and troops were rushed into Tokoza but the reaction, like a bushfire, erupted elsewhere. In Soweto, southwest of Johannesburg, at least 14 people died and 18 hurt as rival ANC and Inkatha groups clashed. More died in battles east of Johannesburg.

Yesterday the violence continued. Gunmen on board a 5.30am commuter train between Johannesburg and Katlehong, an eastern Witwatersrand town, opened fire on passengers, killing three and wounding four. Seventeen people were hurt, two seriously, when they leapt from a train travelling from Soweto into Johannesburg after rumours swept through the carriages that an Inkatha gang was on board.

Colonel Frans Malherbe, chief police spokesman for the Johannesburg area, said that extra police and troops had been deployed in the townships who were prepared to deal with the upsurge in violence. "This whole damn thing has got to come to an end," he said. "We can't go on like this."

The peace accord is a result of an initiative by business and church leaders to bring the key political forces in South Africa together after the ANC's withdrawal from formal negotiations with the government in April over its perceived failure to control political violence. At the weekend, Dr Gerrit Viljoen, constitutional development minister, sounded an optimistic note that an all-party conference, as a preliminary to real negotiations on a post-apartheid constitution, could begin next month as a result of the joint initiative.

In another development yesterday, three South African white-supremacists abandoned an eight-week prison hunger strike, saying that they had failed to persuade President de Klerk to grant them amnesty. Win Cornelius, a lawyer representing the men, who were trying to win inclusion in an amnesty extended to more than 1,100 members of the ANC, said they would now accept bail of 5,000 rand (£1,065) each.

Mr de Klerk said last week that the men were not political prisoners and they would have to stand trial for murder and attempted murder. The three are Henry Martin, a British computer engineer who fasted for 63 days, and Adrian Maritz and Lood van Schalkwyk, South Africans who refused food for slightly shorter periods.

## Israel draws line on Palestinian peace delegates

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN CAIRO

THE war of nerves between Israel and the United States over Middle East policy intensified yesterday when Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli prime minister, announced that Israel would boycott any peace conference if the Palestinian delegates did not meet its conditions.

The gambit, thrown down in advance of the latest shuttle mission by James Baker, the US Secretary of State, was seen as a thinly disguised snub in response to Washington's determination to delay crucial loan guarantees worth \$10 billion (£5.9 billion). Palestinian representation has emerged as a chief obstacle to a conference, still proposed for next month, but Israel had previously refrained from spelling out what action it would take if the Palestinian delegates did not meet its requirements.

Asked whether Israel would change its positive response to the American initiative if the issue was not resolved, Mr Shamir told Israel radio: "The yes [we gave] will not be a yes. We said this is one of the conditions. We must agree to the composition of the Palestinian delegation." Israel's demands include the banning of any Palestinian delegate resident in east Jerusalem and a denial of any role in the talks to members of the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

Mr Shamir's overt boycott threat was the latest Israeli attempt to force the Palestinian issue to the surface following anger in Jerusalem at President Bush's attempt to persuade Congress to impose

a 120-day delay on Israel's request for a guarantee on loans to be raised to house Soviet immigrants. Reacting to Mr Bush's move, Yossi Abimeir, Mr Shamir's chief of staff, shifted the focus back to the issue of Palestinian representation due to be decided by the Palestine National Council in Algeria this month. He said: "So far we did not get answers to this problem, and Baker knows this well."

In private, US officials are banking on neither party wanting to be forced to bear international responsibility for sabotaging the conference plan, seen by many governments as a last chance to prevent further widespread violence in the region. This point was driven home yesterday by Amr Moussa, Egypt's foreign minister, who warned Israel not to delay the negotiations, stating: "Those who stand in the way of establishing peace will be really condemned by history."

Mr Moussa, one of those trying to produce a compromise formula on the issue of Palestinian delegates, was speaking after meeting Hans van den Broek, the Dutch foreign minister, in The Hague, one of the cities being considered as a venue for the conference. The Netherlands currently holds the presidency of the European Community.

Arab euphoria at Mr Bush's move on the loan guarantees has combined with Israeli declarations on the need for continued Jewish settlement in the occupied Arab lands to raise the diplomatic temperature to a level where compromise will be hard to obtain.

## Stakes high as Bush judge begins his Senate ordeal

WASHINGTON'S version of the Spanish Inquisition starts today. With live coverage on four channels, the Democrat-controlled senate judiciary committee finally confronts Clarence Thomas, President Bush's black conservative Supreme Court nominee.

The stakes are high. Judge Thomas's confirmation would cement the right's slender majority on America's ultimate court of appeal at a time when key civil rights and abortion cases are looming. Aged only 43, he would also sway the court's rulings on issues for decades to come.

It is also a nomination that has tied in tangles a nation obsessed by race. Raised in poverty, Mr Thomas nevertheless opposes the sort of affirmative action programmes which got him to Yale law school — but was nominated by Mr Bush not for judicial brilliance but the colour of his skin. Liberal Democrats find themselves in the awkward position of opposing only the second black ever nominated to the Supreme Court.

Most black Americans support Mr Thomas from racial loyalty but almost all civil rights organisations oppose him on ideological grounds. Reams of newspaper and untold hours of air time have debated these conundrums as the process has assumed the trappings of a political campaign.

The committee's Democrats are striving to find a

President Bush has posed a dilemma for liberal Democrats with his nomination of a black conservative to the Supreme Court, Martin Fletcher writes from Washington

justification for rejecting Mr Thomas. They have obtained more than 32,000 documents from his past in a search for proof that he is way outside the mainstream (as defined by past liberal Supreme Courts). At the Equal Employment Opportunities Commission alone, where Mr Thomas was chairman in the 1980s, 12



Thomas: opposed by civil rights groups

lawyers are reported to have spent a month fulfilling the committee's insatiable demands.

He will be interrogated about his contention that all civil rights leaders do is "blatant, mean and white" and his denunciation of his own sister for welfare addiction. He will be engaged in arcane philosophical debate

on whether, as abortion rights activists contend, his espousal of a "natural law" separate from the constitution involves an inalienable right-to-life for fetuses.

Mr Thomas has spent the summer reviewing all his past judgements and statements, undergoing mock inquiries by teams of administration officials and studying films of previous confirmation hearings. His model will not be Robert Bork's combative but foolhardy 1987 attempt to defend his outspoken views but last year's highly successful performance by David Souter, a conservative who stymied the committee with blandness and obfuscation.

Learning from the Bork debacle, the White House has held almost daily strategy sessions to prevent the opposition building momentum. Officials from President Bush down have sought to distract public attention from Judge Thomas's actual views by harking incessantly on the story of his rise from poverty in rural, segregated Georgia through hard work.

The betting is that after a week of theatre a reluctant committee, and then the full Senate, will have to confirm Mr Thomas, unless he blunders badly.



Seasoned style: two models showing off autumn fashions yesterday for the Select Avant-garde exhibition which opens on Thursday in Hamburg. Judith, left, wears a flimsy fringed dress and Nina a tent-coat. Fashion, pages 14 and 15

## Menem wins poll fillip for reforms

FROM REUTERS IN BUENOS AIRES

PRESIDENT Menem of Argentina will press ahead with free market reforms after his Peronist party swept the board in the country's mid-term elections at the weekend.

"These results are really gratifying," Señor Menem said at Government House. "This was not a plebiscite but a vote of confidence for the government's economic, political and social policies. We will step them up to establish stability for good."

The ruling party led in eight of the 13 districts that went to the polls on Sunday. Eduardo Duhalde, Señor Menem's vice-president, easily won the important contest for governor of Buenos Aires, Argentina's richest and most populous province. Opposition Radical candidates won in the important federal district and the province of Córdoba.

As results trickled in late on Sunday, however, Peronists appeared to be staging narrow, upset victories in the provinces of Santa Fe and Tucumán, where Señor Menem backed unconventional candidates: Carlos Reutemann, the retired Formula One driver, and Ramón "Pato" Ortega, a former pop singer. The Peronists had already won in two of the three provinces that voted on August 11, while the Radicals carried the third district at stake. The eight other provinces vote on October 27.

## Cost of African relief goes up

Nairobi — The United Nations yesterday raised from \$376 million to \$400 million (£237 million) its estimate of the cost of caring for 22 million war and drought victims in the Horn of Africa for the rest of this year.

"Without a quick and generous response from the international community, even greater suffering and loss of life will inevitably follow," said James Jonah of the UN. A statement said money was needed for food, medical services, water and shelter for 8 million people in Ethiopia, 7.7 million in Sudan, 4.5 million in Somalia, 95,000 in Djibouti, and 48,000 in Kenya.

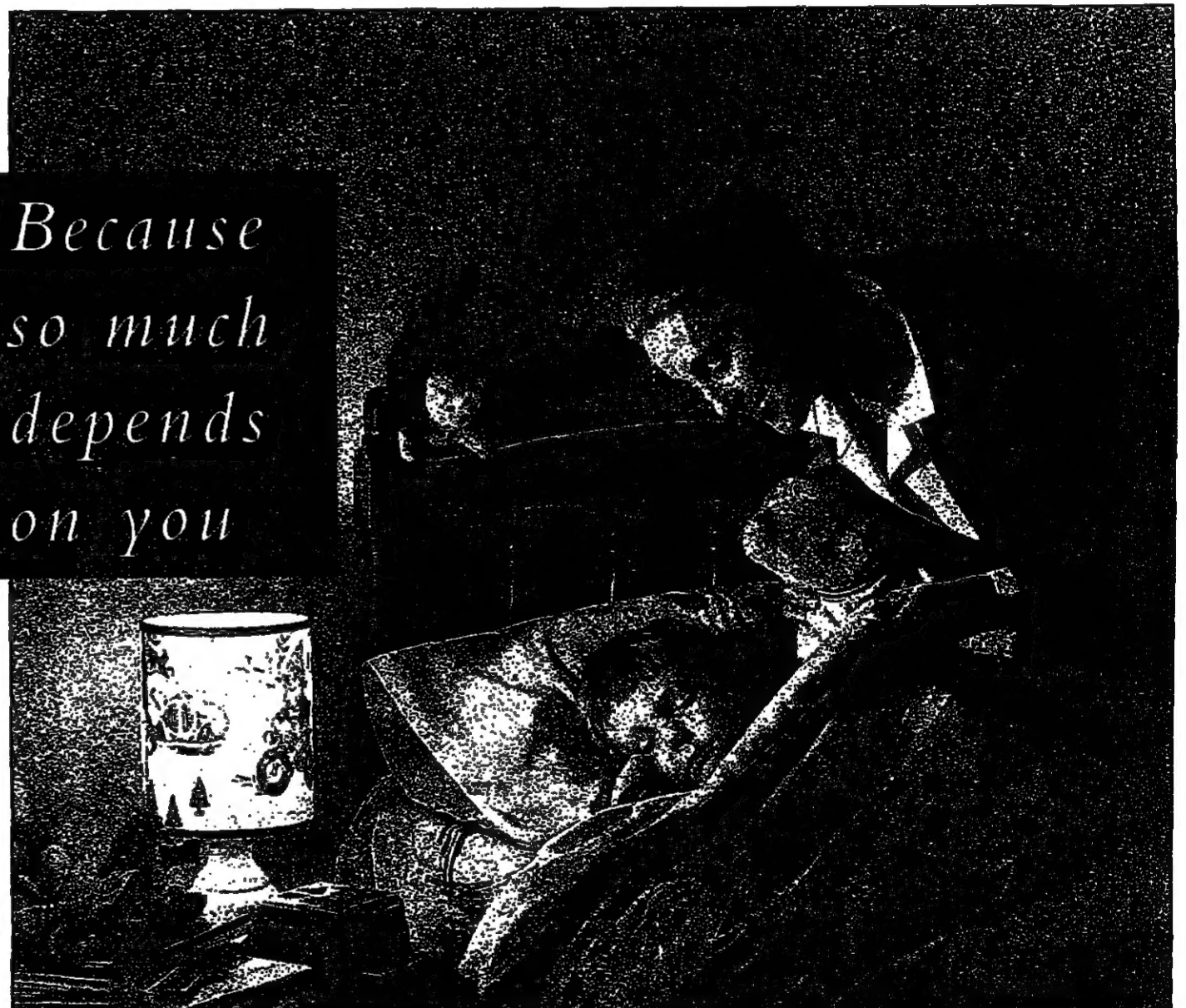
## UN staff killed

Nairobi — The United Nations is withdrawing from Mogadishu, the Somali capital, after three of its local staff were shot dead and two were critically wounded by unidentified gunmen. Unconfirmed reports say hundreds of people are fleeing the renewed violence in the city. (Reuters)

## Tokyo on top

Paris — Tokyo is now the biggest city in the world with 24 million inhabitants, a French official report on world demography said. The second biggest urban area is that around New York, with 23.9 million. London is 23rd with 7.7 million. The figures were based on uninterrupted urban construction. (AFP)

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## DIPLOMACY

# Moscow redrafts its rights brief to keep pace with changes

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

FOREIGN ministers arriving in Moscow for today's conference on human rights will also seize the opportunity to size up the new order, rather than as Western leaders used to do after a death in the Kremlin.

At the same time Soviet diplomacy, on hold since last month's coup, is being smartly revived, with a rush of announcements filling what was becoming an embarrassing foreign policy vacuum. The announcements included the information that the Soviet foreign minister's brief for the conference had been entirely rewritten in the past week to match the new political circumstances in the Soviet Union; that two of President Gorbachev's close associates were setting off in opposite directions on "special missions" at his request; and that the foreign community in the Soviet Union could stand by for the lifting of restrictions on their movements around the country.

At the same time the foreign ministry announced that its collegium had been dissolved to allow the foreign minister to form a new team. The collegium was the governing body which decided foreign policy. Among its members were a generous representation of Communist party and KGB officials.

The foreign ministry yesterday declined to give details of how the minister's brief for the human rights conference had been reworked. But, they said, it had undergone "serious renewal" in line with political changes "towards democracy and freedom".

The missions by Mr Gorbachev's special envoys, Aleksandr Yakovlev and Yevgeni Primakov, appear primarily to be fund-raising expeditions. Mr Yakovlev sets out for Germany today and is to have a two-hour meeting with Helmut Kohl, the chancellor, tomorrow. According to Mr Gorbachev's office, he will be taking with him a personal message from the president.

Mr Primakov, who was the Soviet president's special envoy throughout the Gulf war, is to visit Egypt, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Iran and Turkey. He will be accompanied by senior Soviet and Russian Federation officials in the oil, gas, construction and banking sectors.

The foreign ministry spokesman said yesterday that the visit was connected not with preparations for a Middle East peace conference but with "the complicated economic situation in our country". Asked whether this meant fund-raising, Mr Churkin re-

plied: "We are diplomats." The announcement of Mr Primakov's tour coincided with a report that a Saudi firm planned to set up banks in Russia and Kazakhstan. Diplomatic relations between the Soviet Union and Saudi Arabia were restored in 1990 after 52 years.

The tone for the Moscow human rights conference was set last Thursday, when Mr Gorbachev persuaded the Soviet Union's highest legislature, the Congress of People's Deputies, to approve a declaration designed to bring Soviet practice into line with that in Western countries. The document has been prominently published in the Soviet press over the past few days.

While one of its purposes is clearly to reassure Russians living in the Baltic States that their rights will be protected, another is to pave the way for the human rights conference and for an announcement, expected soon, about freedom of movement in the Soviet Union. In the past, Soviet citizens have been unable to move between jobs and cities at will because of an internal passport system that closed many cities, including Moscow, to most new arrivals. Observers believe this system of internal passports is about to be abolished.



Wrapped attention: swathed in paper against the cold, a woman sprinkles salt on corn on the cob bought in Moscow's Arbat pedestrian shopping street yesterday

## Monuments of bolshevism lie in shame

Michael Binyon visits a park in Moscow where the lifeless symbols of communist terror have been dumped, torn down like the system they served

The statue lies on its back, the huge bronze face half-twisted sideways, deep-set eyes staring blankly. He looks, lying in the grass, like the thousands of men he ordered executed. Feliks Dzerzhinsky, the symbol of communist terror, has been torn down like the system he served.

Removed from the pedestal outside the Lubyanka by a crane as the crowds jeered two weeks ago, the statue was dumped among the trees across the road from Gorky Park. Knots of people clamber over his long bronze cloak, pose for photographs or tap at his beard whose tip someone has tried to saw off.

Behind him is another familiar figure: Mikhail Kalinin, an influential bolshevik and the second head of the Soviet state after the early death of Yakov Sverdlov. He sits in his chair, which until three weeks ago, was at the head of the avenue bearing his name.

Next to him stands Sverdlov, 20ft high and wearing huge military boots. Someone has painted a labour camp slang word that means, roughly, "slab".

Sverdlov, too, was removed by the Moscow city council as mobs began attacking him on the day before the party was suspended. The pink granite pedestal remains in place, chipped where souvenir hunters have tried to break off a piece. On the back, in great white letters, someone has daubed in English: "F--- off". Such is the humiliating end of empire.

The symbols of the communist state have been taken to the back of an open-air sculpture exhibition now on display outside the Central House of Artists. Altogether there are six. Two are of Stalin, though where they came from is unclear: he has not been on public display, except in Georgia, for 30 years. One likeness, of

polished pink granite, lies on its side. The shattered visage, the nose smashed off, has a sneer of cold command. Like Ozymandias, "the sculpture well those passions read, which yet survive, stamped on these lifeless things".

A few feet away a bronze portrays Stalin from the waist upwards. He appears to be delivering a speech. It must have been one of thousands that dominated offices across the country.

Finally there is a huge bald head, anonymous like all the statues in what has been designated the "park of monuments to totalitarianism". It looks like Khrushchev, but is not. Nor is it Beria, Stalin's secret police chief, though some Russians thought it was. "It was one of these guys anyway," one said contemptuously.

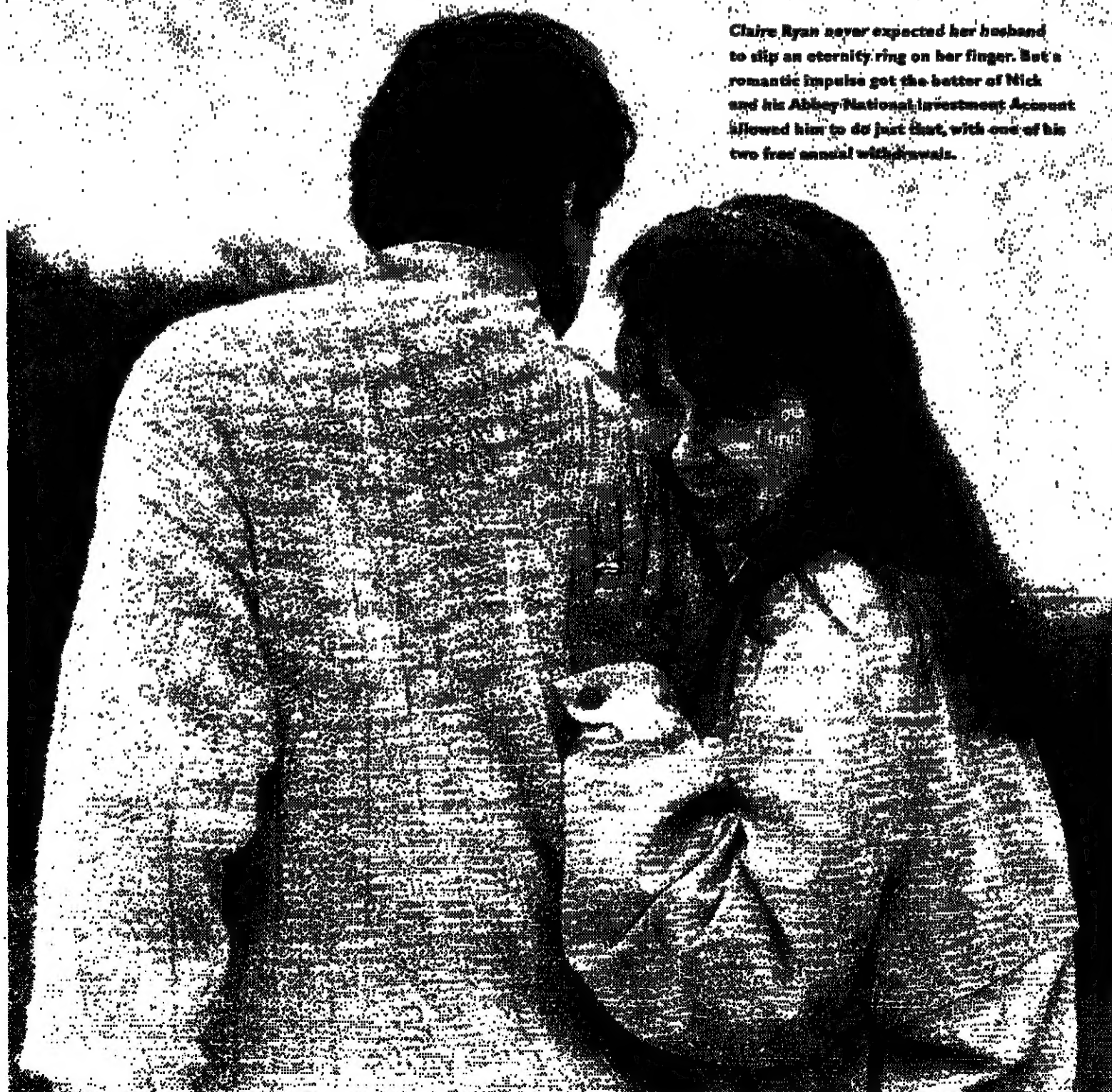
One obvious figure is missing. Lenin remains, literally, on his pedestal. Only 200 yards away, an enormous statue dominates the busy roundabout at October Square. The adorning masses are scripted round the base.

But Lenin is already endangered. His withered and emaciated body is still in the mausoleum, gawped at by thousands each day, and guarded by silent, immobile soldiers with bayonets. There is a feeling he will not be there much longer. Anatoli Sobchak, the radical mayor of St Petersburg, said last week he should return for a fitting burial beside his mother, as he himself wished, in the city that once bore his name.

History has come full circle. Ironically Tass announced yesterday that the first underground meeting of the new illegal Communist party had already been organised to discuss what to do. The bolshevik leaders, dumped in the park would have had an answer.

Leading article, page 17

## I'm speechless



Claire Ryan never expected her husband to slip an eternity ring on her finger. But a romantic impulse got the better of Nick and his Abbey National Investment Account allowed him to do just that, with one of his two free annual withdrawals.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Tajikistan opts for secession

Moscow — The Central Asian republic of Tajikistan declared independence from the Soviet Union yesterday and called a presidential election for October 27.

The independence declaration by a special session of the republic's parliament was largely symbolic, given the decision last week to transform the Soviet Union into a loose confederation of sovereign states. "We can't lag behind other republics. Everybody is declaring independence so we are as well," Akhmed Abdolmuhamedov, a parliamentary spokesman, said.

Tajikistan, a largely mountainous republic bordering China and Afghanistan, is the eighth of the remaining 12 Soviet republics to claim independence. It became part of the Soviet Union in 1924, having been ruled by Mongols, Uzbeks and Russians since the 13th century. (AP)

### Legal loophole

Moscow — Lithuania's chief prosecutor has said that although Lithuania forbids rehabilitation of people who were convicted of genocide in Soviet courts, it does not recognise the decisions of Soviet tribunals and so people convicted by them would be rehabilitated unless there is new evidence against them. (AP)

### Kurile optimism

Tokyo — After receiving a message from Boris Yeltsin, delivered by Russian Ambassador, acting chairman of Russia's supreme soviet, Japan is convinced that the Russian president is determined to settle the bitter dispute over the Kurile islands, occupied by Soviet forces since the second world war. (Reuters)

## AZERBAIJAN

### President vows to end Armenian conflict

FROM BRUCE CLARKE IN BAKU

AYAZ MUTALIBOV, the newly re-elected president of Azerbaijan, promised yesterday to seek a peaceful resolution of the Soviet republic's conflict with Armenia and said that some of his most notorious special forces would be withdrawn from the conflict zone as a goodwill gesture.

Mr Muttalibov was speaking shortly after the authorities claimed — in the teeth of vigorous denials by the opposition — that a massive "yes" vote had been recorded during Sunday's presidential ballot, in which he was the sole candidate. "The presence of troops is not the best way to solve problems," he said, ushering in what may be a more conciliatory line from a man who has risen to popularity by taking ruthless measures against Armenian fighters in and outside his republic, at a cost of many civilian lives.

The former Communist party leader called for dialogue with a representative of Nagorno-Karabakh, a mountainous enclave whose status is bitterly disputed between Armenia and Azerbaijan. This would be aimed at the withdrawal of all peacekeeping forces from the territory and the full restoration of its self-rule within Azerbaijan; but the transfer of the territory to Armenia would be excluded.

Mr Muttalibov also proposed talks with the government of Armenia aimed at defusing the border conflict between the two republics. As an initial gesture, he said his republic's ruthless "Black Beret" forces would be withdrawn from the airport of Stepanakert, the main city of the disputed region.

Mr Muttalibov also said he was prepared to co-operate with liberal elements within the opposition Popular Front, an offer which could further damage an already demoralised movement.

## Lenin's brain goes on view

FROM CHARLES BRENNER IN NEW YORK

WHILE millions of citizens have paid their respects to Lenin's mummified remains in Moscow's Red Square over the last 67 years, his brain has been preserved a couple of miles away in a sinister research institute set up by Stalin.

On Sunday, American television gave the first tour of the Institute of the Brain, a section of the Academy of Sciences whose mission was to draw lessons from the grey matter of the titans of communist power along with those of some of the country's great artists. Lenin's brain is housed in room 19 of the institute, which until the coup had been closely guarded by the KGB, said Artyom Borovik, a Soviet reporter who works for CBS.

"There is no way to understand the fear and secrecy that permeates room 19 unless you understand the madness and evil of the man who created the institute of the Brain, Josef

Stalin," Mr Borovik said as he led viewers into the inner sanctum. "Stalin's mandate to the institute was to prove that Lenin and the other great pioneering communists were representatives of a kind of mental master race."

Lenin's brain has been the subject of popular legend since he died in 1924. According to some, he was poisoned by Stalin. Another tale has it that congenital syphilis had caused his brain to rot. Mr Borovik said he had first been shown a wax model of the whole brain, which did not show the pockmarks said to have been caused by syphilis. Then viewers were shown slivers of tissue — which were among 30,000 taken for research.

"When the director of brain studies first held one of these slivers of Lenin's brain in her hand, she said it sent shivers down her spine," said Mr Borovik. Work on Lenin's brain had stopped 40 years ago, shortly before Stalin's brain was brought to the institute. "All the elaborate studies and reports had been labeled 'top secret,' locked in this safe, and the institute's scientists forbidden ever to discuss their findings," he said.

Viewers also saw containers holding the pickled brains of Stalin, Sergei Eisenstein, the film director, and Tolstoy as well as that of Andrei Sakharov. A special fast-reaction unit had brought the brain of the late human rights activist within hours of his death in December 1989.

Stalin's scientists and their successors were trying to prove links between physical characteristics of the brain and the physical and psychological make-up of its owner. After Dr Sakharov's brain was deposited two years ago, Oleg Adriaev, the director of the institute, said the general goal had been to disprove Nazi-style theories that linked mental attributes to race.



The habit of a lifetime



FROM ANNE McELVOY IN ZAGREB

Henry Wijnaendts, the EC's special envoy braved a stretch of the highway from Zagreb to Belgrade which is blocked by Serbian guerrillas. He said: "The ceasefire is extremely fragile and we are not dupes ... we have seen that if we announce our visit beforehand, there is no shooting."



Speaking after the vote, the Macedonian president, Kiro

President Gligorov said: "Macedonia's independence is not directed against anyone. It is only a support upon

which to establish new relations in Yugoslavia, the Balkans and in Europe." But he made clear that the republic would enforce its full independence rather than stay in a federation which did not include Slovenia and Croatia and which would effectively be a "Greater Serbia".

**Reg-tag army, page 1**

EC foreign ministers are due to meet again at the end of the month and the community's leaders will hold a special one-day summit in early October. The meetings are the last chance to complete the agreements associating the three East European states with the EC before the end of the year.

Leading article, page 17

**Rag-tag army, page 1**

**Leading article, page 17**

FROM TOM WALKER  
IN BRUSSELS

The her convergence criteria suggested by the Dutch are similar inflation and interest levels, and a nation's spect for at least two years' the narrow 2.25 per cent bid of divergence in the exchange rate mechanism of the European Monetary System, the latter would exclude Britain and Spain at home. Neither Portugal nor Greece in the ERM. Guiseppe Carli, a Italian foreign minister, suggested that the criteria could take into account the size of a nation's economy. Italy, though regarded as a world industrial power, through its inclusion in the Group Seven industrial nations, is crippled by a public debt.

From PHILIP JACOBSON IN PARIS



There are those who will swear that Paris in July and August is the best of times, when the city is drained of its cold and clannish inhabitants and the streets are filled with inoffensive tourists. All that comes to an abrupt end with the start of the school year, which serves as a signal for normal courtesies to be resumed.

The big stores have come back to life, too, with special promotions designed to ensure that French children can blackmail their parents into equipping them from the

Some may feel that this is going a little too far, but those who know Paris at this peculiarly fraught time of year will applaud the sentiment behind the proposal. Given the circumstances, an armed escort will surely be required for the actors who, it was announced yesterday, are to entertain September commuters on the notoriously slow 127 route, running between Montreuil and Neuilly-sur-Marne, with a selection of comic works.

From PHILIP JACOBSON IN PARIS

Herr Stoltenberg said the French would then be able to "revise" their present policy, a clear allusion to the Hades short-range missiles in eastern France, which were effectively reserved for targets in pre-unification East Germany. Some observers believe Paris is prepared to treat the Hades as a bargaining counter in negotiations on a common defence policy for Europe.

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## The habit of a lifetime



## Businessman freed by China thanks Major for his help

FROM JONATHAN BRAUDE IN HONG KONG

LUO Haixing, the Hong Kong businessman released by the Chinese government from a prison in Canton yesterday, believes he has John Major to thank for his freedom. He was sentenced to five years in jail last March for helping two dissidents, Wang Juntao and Chen Ziming, in their attempt to flee the country after the

Tiananmen Square killings of June 1989. Hong Kong democracy activists said, however, that his early release did not indicate any improvement in human rights in China. Lee Cheuk-yan, a trade-union leader, said that what Luo had done was not a crime and he should never have been jailed.

Luo's high profile as a former employee of the Hong Kong Trade Development Council and the pressure applied by his family are thought to have helped British requests for his release. But Lai Pui-shing and Li Long-ching, Hong Kong activists jailed with him, remain in prison. They were sentenced to five and four years respectively.

The court which jailed them was told that they were employed by a Hong Kong company to go to the mainland and smuggle out people engaged in the "counter-revolutionary rebellion" in Peking. Papers presented to the court claimed that they had helped at least 14 activists to flee the country.

All three cases were raised by Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, during his visit to Peking in April, along with the case of Lau Shan-ching, who was sentenced to ten years in 1982 on counter-revolution charges. Mr Hurd said afterwards that the Chinese leaders had undertaken to look into the cases.

Luo was first arrested in 1989 but was not convicted for a year and a half. The official reason for his release was that he had a heart problem. He said yesterday that his first action when he returned to Hong Kong today would be to have a medical check-up.

Mr King's two-day visit, starting on Tuesday, comes after last week's meeting of the Sino-British joint liaison group at which China was reported to have agreed to the relocation of British naval forces away from their present base, which is close to the colony's central banking and financial district. (AFP)

Woodrow Wyatt, page 16

Diary, page 16

## Manila base deal fails first test

By ASBY TAN IN MANILA AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

RICHARD Cheney, the American defence secretary, said yesterday he was not optimistic that the Philippine senate would ratify the treaty extending the American lease on Subic Bay naval base. His comments came after the Philippine Senate foreign relations committee voted to reject the deal with America.

Earlier, President Aquino of the Philippines asked Filipinos to take to the streets in a repeat demonstration of the "people power" that had swept her to office in 1986. She said a show of force was necessary to pressure a hostile senate to ratify the treaty.

The full Philippine senate is expected to vote on the agreement in the next few days. The support for the senate committee's resolution indicates that the upper chamber will reject the pact.

Mr Cheney, interviewed on ABC television in Washington, said he could not predict the outcome of the final vote but he said that he was not hopeful. "Right now, the indicators are not good."

In another interview with Cable News Network, Mr Cheney said: "We would like to continue in the Philippines, but we obviously cannot stay where we are not wanted, and we won't." He said Philippine

acceptance of the treaty would signal stability of the government to foreign investors while rejection could hurt investment in the country.

In a national television broadcast, Mrs Aquino reminded Filipinos that the country could not afford to reject the American bases treaty in the aftermath of the devastation caused by the volcanic eruption of Mount Pinatubo in June, which had left 650,000 people jobless. American aid linked to the renewal of the bases treaty is considered by Manila as crucial for economic recovery.

Today President Aquino will personally lead a rally expected to draw up to half a million people. "It is on behalf of our countrymen that we are again mobilising people power," she said. "Let us make our voices heard."

Mrs Aquino faces certain defeat if she is unable to muster 16 votes or a two-thirds majority in the 23-member upper chamber. Yesterday 12 senators had signed the anti-base resolution.

The new treaty extends by ten years America's lease of Subic naval base for an annual compensation of \$203 million (£120 million). Most senators say the amount betrays Philippine sovereignty.



Face to face: a construction worker in Tiananmen Square pausing to look at the portrait of Mao Tse-tung

## Peking upholds memory of Mao

Mao Tse-tung would turn in his display case if he knew that his hero Lenin may be moved from his mausoleum on Red Square and shifted ignominiously to pastures new. The position of China's great helmsman, however, seems safe in the grandiose mausoleum which has been his resting place for the past 15 years.

On the anniversary of Mao's death yesterday, thousands of Chinese faithful queued to file, accompanied by funeral music, into the sombre hall in which his body lies. Guards yelled through loudspeakers, urging them to keep up a cracking pace and reminding them that it was forbidden to carry any packages into the mausoleum. They have been nervous ever since they found a young man with a pocket full of explosives walking into the mausoleum four years ago.

Xinhua, the official news agency, announced with

Fifteen years after Mao's death, thousands still visit his body and his doctrine thrives, endorsed by elder statesman Deng Xiaoping. Catherine Sampson writes from Peking

pride that 67.5 million people had made the pilgrimage to the mausoleum in the past 15 years, an average of 40,000 a day. The evening television news featured Mao's rather plump grandson, Mao Xinyu, paying his respects at a statue of his grandfather.

China's state-controlled media also offered some insights on how Deng Xiaoping, the country's elder statesman, aged 87, remains well-preserved. Mr Deng has not been seen in public for about seven months, but is believed to enjoy reasonably good health.

Although he holds no official post, he is believed to wield immense power behind the scenes. A supporter of economic reform but a hardliner politically,

most observers believe that China could change politically only after his death. China's Elderly News reported that Mr Deng drank two glasses of "medicinal spirits" a day, ignores medical advice, and breakfasts on soybean milk and steamed bread. He is also believed to have acquired a taste for croissants when he studied in France in the 1920s.

He rises at 6.30am and by 9am is listening to a private reading of the news highlights. By 10am Mr Deng is studying Communist Party Central Committee documents, a practice he repeats at 10pm before he goes to bed.

His whole family is assembled for lunch at

12.30pm and dinner at 6.30pm, and his private secretaries attend as well so that the party spills on to two tables. His family includes his wife, Zhuo Lin, two sons, three daughters and 11 grandchildren.

In 1956, Mao signed a document condemning grand funerals and pledging to be cremated because it saved on space and coffins. After his death in 1976, however, his body was embalmed with the help of the Vietnamese who had embalmed Ho Chi Minh.

In 1989, Xinhua denied that Mao's body was shrinking, citing regular measurements by medical staff. The report put people's observations that he seems smaller than they expected down to an optical illusion caused by the fact that Mao's body was lying down and was placed at a distance from those viewing it. Yesterday, Xinhua assured readers again that "Mao's body is well-preserved".

## Floods threaten capital

Phnom Penh - Floods have transformed the outskirts of the Cambodian capital into a vast swamp and residents have stacked thousands of sandbags to try to save buildings.

The worst floods in Cambodia in nearly 4 years have killed about 100 people in the countryside, made 300,000 homeless and ruined 247,000 acres of rice paddies, the United Nations Development Programme said. An international relief effort is under way.

The Phnom Penh municipal authorities have ordered sandbags to be placed round important buildings as they are building a dyke along the river banks to prevent the floods from swamping the city. The capital lies on a confluence of the Tle Sap and Mekong rivers which diverge again far downstream. The rivers now resemble a huge lake. (Reuters)

## Army accused

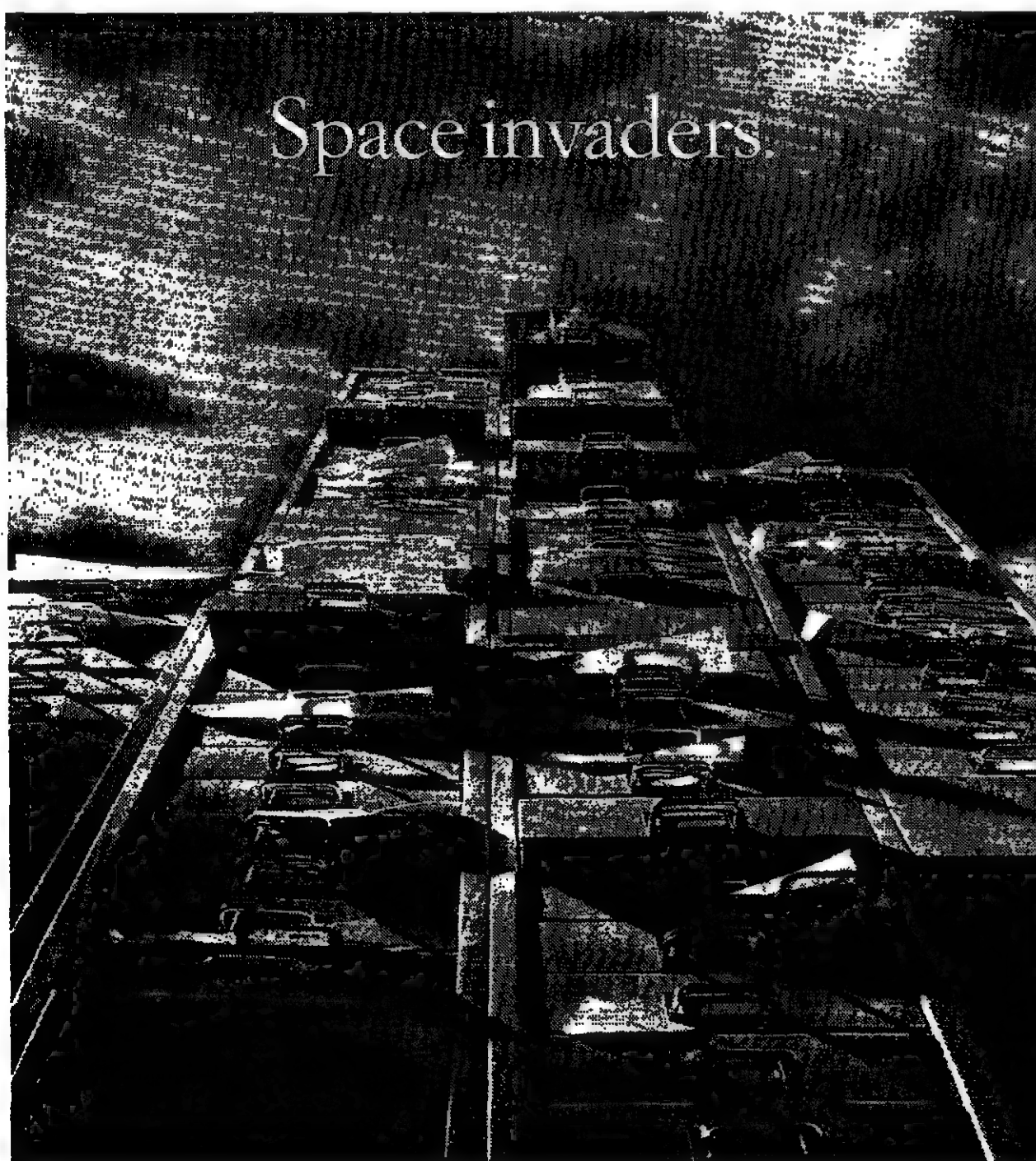
Bangkok - Burma's army murders and brutalises as a matter of routine members of ethnic minorities forced to work as porters in anti-guerrilla campaigns. Amnesty International said in a report received here. The human rights group said the army uses the porters as human mine detectors. (Reuters)

## Crash cause

Seattle - Niki Lauda, owner of Lauda Air, has confirmed that accidental mid-air deployment of the thrust reversers on the port engine caused the crash in Thailand of one of his Boeing 767 jets last May. All 223 people on board died. Thai officials have yet to establish how the reversers were activated in flight. (P)

## Skippy return

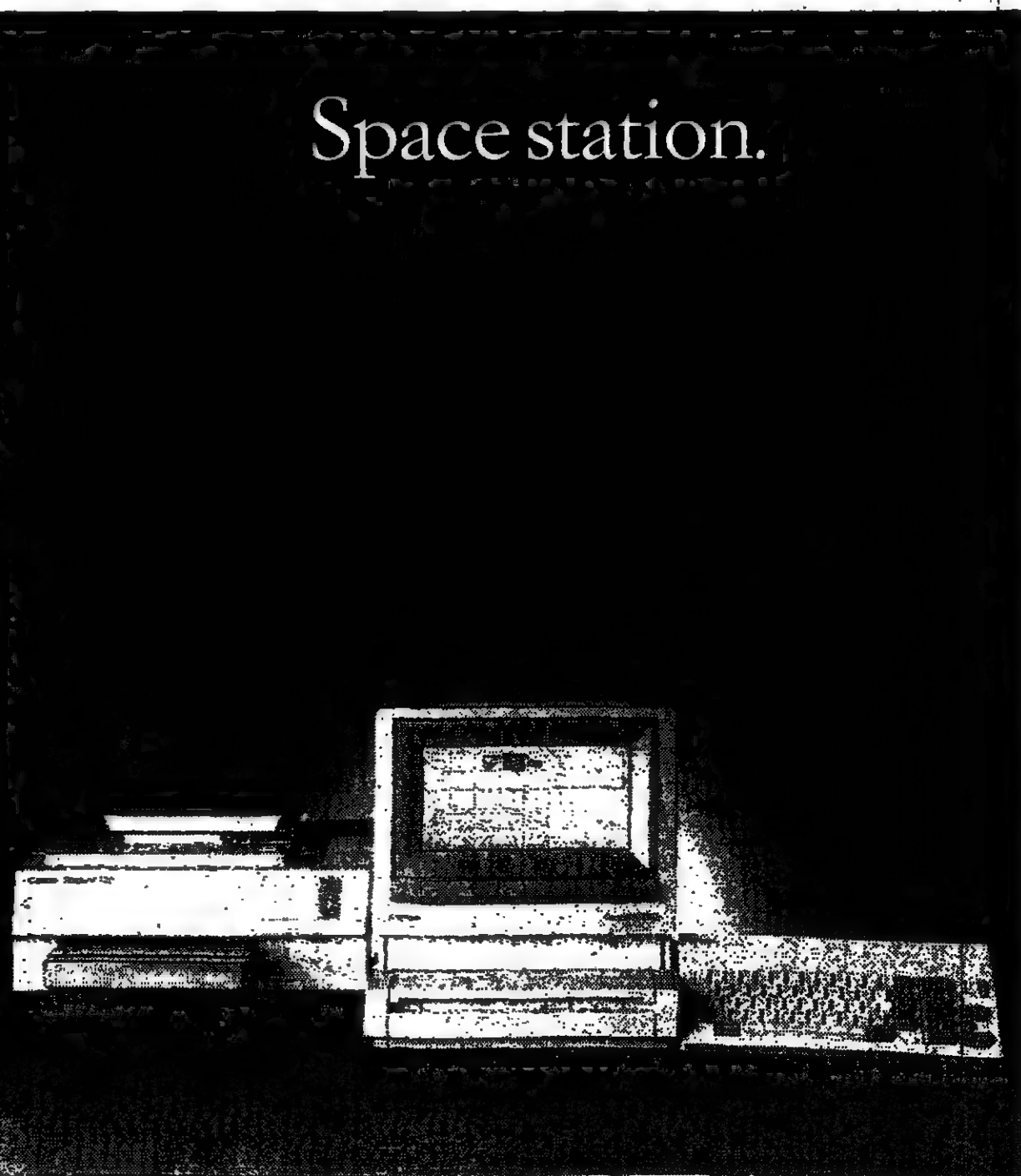
Sydney - Skippy the fish kangaroo is returning in new television series, already pld around the world, but he'll no longer drive cars or fly helicopters or send new code. He will still communicate by clicking. Ninelet-work said, but he will visit the environmental cones of the 1990s. (Reuters)



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## CINEMA: VENICE FESTIVAL

## From the Rialto to the Odeons?

The most established and stylish annual film event is facing a change of director and, possibly, of season, David Robinson says

Venice is still queen of film festivals, by virtue of seniority (57 years, 48 festivals) and the prestigious association with the great art Biennale. But the throne is currently a trifle shaky. The Cannes Festival, which is bigger and commercially much more powerful, is talking of moving its dates from May to September. This would force a difficult and unwanted change of season on Venice. The Italian and French ministers of culture are exchanging messages of mutual goodwill, but the future is uncertain.

The uncertainty comes, moreover, at the time of Venice's regular four-year crisis, when a new director must, by statute, be appointed. The appointment is highly political, and generally contentious. Guglielmo Biraghi, the outgoing director, has brought back style and prestige to the event. Favourite candidate as his successor is the glamorous and acutely intelligent film critic of *La Repubblica*, Irene Bignardi.

To programme Venice or Cannes, however, is not an enviable job. Smaller festivals such as London, Edinburgh or New York can take their pick from the whole year's world cinema. The big ones are committed to exclusive premieres.

So far this year, Venice has produced no masterpieces or sur-

prises. Among the well-established directors, Werner Herzog treads familiar ground in *Scream of Stone* — his obsessive theme of superhuman endeavour, in this case the conquest of a notorious Patagonian mountain peak, Cerro Torre. Herzog now chooses his subjects as physical challenges. He took his unit to the real location, in storm conditions; and, by his own account, exposed them to frostbite, hunger and risk of death. The risk was not worthwhile. The spectacle spares no pains; but

**'River Phoenix has grown from child star to a formidable 20-year-old actor'**

it is undermined by story, character and dialogue of dreadful banality. Herzog sets out to revive a venerable German heroic genre — the mountain film — but the rivalry of two men for the same mountain and same girl is the stuff of old-time sports melodrama.

Jacques Rivette's *La Belle Noisette* originally appeared in Cannes, running for four hours. It

resurfaces in Venice in a two-hour version, retitled *La Belle Noisette - Divertimento*. The new version appears to be called for by contractual obligations to deliver a two-hour film; but Rivette makes a virtue of necessity. The pace and rhythm are altered and alternative versions of some scenes are used. The result is a wholly satisfying still a peculiarly compelling essay on the mystical element in artistic creation. Michel Piccoli is a painter who exerts Sverral influence upon his models, but is himself subjugated by his own creation.

Piccoli in his sixties is an astonishing actor — effortless, self-contained, entirely absorbed into his roles. He plays another Sverral in Niko Papatakis' *Les Equilibristes*. Papatakis, born 73 years ago of Greek-Ethiopian parentage, is a singular figure in French cultural history. He was prominent in post-war Left Bank society, with his wife Anouk Aimée he ran the cabaret Rose Rouge which launched Juliette Greco, Marcel Marceau and Michel Piccoli.

In 1963 Papatakis' first film *Les Abysses*, based on the same true murder story as Jean Genet's *The Maids*, was a celebrated success of scandal. *Les Equilibristes* is his fifth film as director. He also produced the first film of John Cassavetes, *Shadows*; and the only film ever made by Jean



Hustlers on the road: Keanu Reeves (left) and River Phoenix in *My Own Private Idaho*, one of the films at the Venice Film Festival

Genet: *Un Chien d'Amour* (1950). *Les Equilibristes* is in fact an undisguised and disenchanted recollection of Genet, whom Papatakis knew well. In the early Sixties the writer took up a young Arab called Abdallah and supervised and financed his training as a tightrope walker.

His motive seemed to be a mixture of sexuality, a frustrated desire for a son, and the fulfilment of creativity in devising the circus act. After Abdallah suffered a couple of falls, Genet abandoned him altogether, to promote a new young protégé. Abdallah committed suicide in 1964. Papatakis' direct story-telling (the script owes something to Genet's style) only makes the tragedy more brutal. Representing Britain in Venice.

Derek Jarman, with Marlowe's *Edward II* confronts Peter Greenaway with *Prospero's Books*, after *The Tempest*. *Edward II* has still to come, but the visual splendours and excess of the Greenaway film have struck awe in the Lido spectators and the film looks like a candidate for a prize.

Shakespeare surfaced again unexpectedly in Gus Van Sant's *My Own Private Idaho*, ostensibly the story of two young hustlers in Portland, Oregon. River Phoenix, who has grown from child star to a formidable 20-year-old actor, plays a narcoleptic on the road, picking up money where he can by amateur prostitution. Shakespeare provides the story of his companion (Keanu Reeves) who is a modern-dressed Prince Hal. The Falstaff-Hal scenes from *Henry IV Part One* and *Part Two* and *Henry V* (which provided Orson Welles with *Chimes at Midnight*), are lifted directly, with no modification of the dialogue. The old king is now city mayor; Falstaff is leader of a band of hippies.

Uncomfortably stuck into an impressively staged contemporary setting, the Shakespearean bit seems pretentious and uncomfortable. Van Sant himself clearly does not regard it as a mistake, since the original text is handed out for the enlightenment of the press in Venice. The remainder of the film is strong enough to survive the miscalculation.

After her successful debut with *Salaam Bombay!*, the Indian-born, Harvard-educated Mira Nair has made an adventurous American production, *Mississippi Masala*. The script by Sooni Taraporevala is a sophisticated exploration of racism. The protagonist is the daughter of Ugandan Indians who settled in Mississippi after Idi Amin's expulsion of the Ugandan Asians in 1972. When she falls in love with a young American black (Denzel Washington), it brings to the surface all the resentments of two races of colour.

More vigorous editing could have given this intelligent and sincere film greater vitality. The heroine's mother is played by Sharmila Tagore, an Indian star who made her name as a teenager in the films of Satyajit Ray.

## Seven for five

THE West End cinema squeeze will get worse after Thursday, when the Warner in Leicester Square — built in 1938 on the site of Daly's Theatre — closes for extensive redevelopment. Everything but its art deco facade will be knocked down, and seven screens will replace the present five. The closure will be marked by a demolition ceremony performed by the Duchess of Kent and a gala screening of the cinema's first attraction, *The Adventures of Robin Hood* with Errol Flynn. The cinema should be reborn in time for Christmas 1993; in the meantime, Warner films will be shunted round other West End venues, including the promised new screens at the Trocadero.

## Staying on

SO MUCH public interest has been provoked by the dozen huge bronze sculptures currently being exhibited on the riverbank outside the Festival Hall that one piece at least seems destined to remain. The exhibition of the bronzes is the first showing of the distinguished Chinese sculptor Ju Ming in this country.



Ju Ming: hit debutant

Bank plans to buy a bronze to remain on site after the rest move on to Guildford November, and the South for Christmas.

## Last chance...

AT THE Proms (Albert Hall, 071-823 9998) some of the most mouth-watering concerts are customarily reserved for the final week. Welsh National Opera performs Mozart's *Idomeneo* on Friday, displacing the usual Beethoven's Ninth on the penultimate night. A mazzy Bernstein and Stravinsky concert comes from the LSO and Tilson Thomas on Thursday, and the traditional Last Night jollities are on Saturday.

NOAH'S ARK FROM

## EHRMAN TAPESTRY



Catherine Beurs, the Canadian textile designer, has treated the story of Noah's Ark in the native tradition. Her animals, lined up in single file, have an appeal and simplicity reminiscent of 18th Century American Folk art which inspires so much of her work. Her colours are cool and muted, dusty rose pinks and mauve, pale and steel blue, elephant grey, white and deeper thundery blue. It is a very popular design with children and makes a most original tapestry.

It makes a large, comfortable cushion measuring 18 1/2" x 18 1/2" and the design is printed in the full 14 colours on 12 holes to the inch canvas. It can be worked in either half-cross or tent stitch and enough wool from the Appleton's range is included to complete the tapestry in either. The kit comes complete with canvas, wool, needle and instruction leaflet. All for £29.95 including postage and packing, which for a cushion of this size is very good value. When ordering use FREEPOST — no stamp needed.

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## ARTS FUNDING

## Mapping out the garden to ensure future glories

THIS week the Arts Council is publishing what it claims is the most comprehensive analysis of the arts ever undertaken in this country. Comprising 45 discussion documents designed to generate public debate, the National Arts and Media Strategy is, according to an Arts Council spokeswoman, "a blueprint for the arts over the next decade and beyond the turn of the century which will challenge the assumptions made about the arts over the years."

The National Arts and Media Strategy was ordered 18 months ago by the then arts minister, Richard Luce. During the past six months or so, invited experts have been working on the 45 papers which deal with subjects ranging from opera to folk craft. According to Howard Webber, the Strategy's co-ordinator, "No aspect of the arts or funded media in Great Britain can be properly discussed without reference to these documents."

The submissions will be made available to interested members of the public free of charge; responses are invited by the end of November. By the spring there will be a draft strategy and the whole £300,000 operation should end with final publication in June.

The Arts Council asked Michael Church, an arts journalist, to write a summary of the submissions, and he finds a stark reality for the

A "national arts strategy", costing £300,000, presents a detailed case for more arts subsidy. Simon Tait reports

strategy to address. "It must face the fact that the theatre is now playing safe to survive its seemingly permanent cash crisis; that the film industry is moribund; the library service is buckling under the demands made on it; the subsidy system is unstable and often chaotic; that British companies are increasingly unable to compete economically with their European counterparts; that performers are glaringly underpaid (when paid at all)."

Church writes that sponsorship has now largely "done all it can", and that new alliances between the public and private sectors cannot hope to bridge growing shortfalls. Nor is there evidence of waste by arts companies, he adds.

Among the needs identified are a national dance house, a national arts archive, the inclusion of the disabled in arts projects, support for amateur arts and "a less insulting wage for performers and creatives."

"The proposed new projects, coupled with the fact

that many essential institutions are in need of rescue, lead to one inescapable conclusion: substantially more public money must be found for the arts," writes Church.

Oddly, no paper was commissioned specifically about funding because, explains Webber, the strategy has to challenge government rather than dictating government policy; most papers have a funding aspect anyway.

In fact the strategy only has the binding commitment of the immediate funding bodies: the Arts Council, the British Film Institute, the Crafts Council and the regional arts boards. Charles Morgan of the National Campaign for the Arts sees a stumbling block in this. "Whether or not the Arts Council produces what looks like a sensible strategy, it's not worth the paper it's printed on unless it has the wholehearted approval of local authorities, government departments and everyone else concerned with funding the arts."

"This is an exercise which is inevitably costing a large sum of money. There seems to be no safeguard that it has any more commitment from government than a large number of other reports produced over the last 12 years. Ministers will do as they've done before: pick out the bits they fancy and avoid anything they don't like. Unless the government makes proper financial provision for the arts, one gets the idea that all of this process is rather a whitewash."

## RADIO: REVIEW

## Case of the stingless wasp

THE long shadow of Monty Python casts a pall over many fields; its influence is so pervasive as often to be difficult to see. In some respects the very way we view the popular culture of previous ages has been irrevocably modulated by Cleeve, Palin and co. In particular, the interbellum world of their parents' heyday — Empire, tea-dances, self-improvement, myopic optimism — comes to us substantially through their satires.

This is a period rich in risibility; indeed, the cartoonist Glen Baxter has made a career out of using its images in surrealistic context. Now *The Harpoon* (Radio 4, Saturday) colourises the same world by purporting to be a pre-war magazine for all the family. Fiction, quizzes and "how to" features are interspersed with daft advertisements and bluff comments from the editor, who typically solves readers' problems by advising them to invest in a gun.

If it seems a tall order to presume to evoke magazine pages on air, the programme starts with the advantage that



P.J. O'Rourke: he did not start the week wittily

most of the jokes, tame though they are, are strictly verbal. And it has found a way of conveying a comic strip which does justice to the clichés of schoolgirl fiction. Its heroine is the daughter of a rich cockney, a circumstance which enables her to mouth rhyming slang in a "U" accent. Newly arrived at boarding school, she notices the prevalence of unshaven loiterers with binoculars and wonders if there might be a connection with the preposterous number of girls who have recently disappeared. (Yes, there is.) All this is rendered, any-

thing but naturalistically, by the characters describing the contents of the notional letters in which they appear.

"Look, there's a shadowy figure wandering about in front of the chapel in a dazed manner!" Mainstream radio drama could learn from this technique.

The book publishing industry heaved a collective sigh yesterday morning with the return of *Start The Week* (Radio 4), which provided a platform for P.J. O'Rourke to promote his new polemical work on the American political system. Listeners who, having read O'Rourke's journalism, may have been puzzled by his reputation as a wit, will have had their puzzle-moment confirmed. Here surely, with fairly quiescent fellow guests, was the opportunity for him to shine. But no: having been invited to consider the demise of communism, he did so with as much sobriety as any political analyst.

This is the Gore Vidal syndrome: the waspish commentator wants to be taken seriously as an authoritative voice, perhaps even to become a politician himself. Then things livened up tremendously, with Julie Burchill and John Mortimer accusing each other of snobbery. Welcome back.

MARTIN CROPPER

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JAPAN FESTIVAL



The sensual, supple qualities of suede are in favour again. Dinah Hall talks to designers who are devoted to hide chic

## Luxury of a second skin

There must be some element of primeval satisfaction in wearing suede next to the skin. Though the price tag brings reality back with a jolt, suede evokes echoes of the hunter-gatherer and has a natural sensuality that comes from being closer to the animal than many of us might care to consider.

Suede and leather have such different qualities it is easy to forget they are two sides of the same material. Leather has a tough, macho image, yet it has a down-to-earth appeal. Season after season clothes rooted in the cowboy/workwear tradition express this dichotomy.

One of the best-known names in British suede design is Nigel Preston and his Maxfield Parrish label, started in 1978. His clothes all have a fluid simplicity, but by choosing suede as a medium this style was in effect thrust upon him. Creativity must be kept within the bounds of technical possibility, but trying to stretch such boundaries is a challenge he enjoys. "It is difficult to get fullness and suede does not float," he says. "I have just spent a week on one set of patterns, trying to make the material 'kick' — with fabric it would have been easy."

Seaming presents one of the biggest difficulties. "You spend a lot of time wondering where to put the break. If you put the seam in the right place you can divert the eye from it or direct attention towards it, depending on the effect you want."

Mr Preston uses a lot of goat skin, bought from mainly Muslim countries. He uses tanneries in France, believing the English do not have the equipment or

the expertise to make a good-looking product. And his biggest turnover is in Italy, which surprised him as they produce so much suede themselves.

He prefers suede clothes to have what he calls "a schloppy look. I once did some suede dungarees that no one would look at until they saw them on models — they looked a bit of a mess, but that was how they were meant to be." Mr Preston has also done dresses loosely

**'The invention last year of a washable suede has enhanced its appeal'**

based on the butcher's apron shape. "Styles should be able to last. I hate the idea that this season's collection makes next year's heap of rubbish."

Maxfield Parrish clothes are available from Joseph, SW1; SW3; Harvey Nichols, SW1; Helen Hayes, Barnes; Matches, Wimbledon; and Image, Bath. The suede parka shown here costs £650, the jodhpurs £380, and suede shirts are £550.

Both Mr Preston and Jean Muir — acknowledged as a genius with suede — remain faithful to the material, which goes through low points in the fashion trade. Jane Buckle, the public relations officer for Strong & Fisher the Northamptonshire-based tannery, says four or five years ago it was in decline. This year, however, it is

in demand, with designers such as Nicole Farhi, Betty Jackson and Edina Robay buying the tannery's expensive sheep suede. Its invention last year of a washable suede has undoubtedly enhanced its appeal (Jefferies of Belgrave charges from £36.75 for dry cleaning a suede shirt). Washable suede is washed separately on a wool cycle, left to dry, then reshaped and pressed with a cool iron. Betty Jackson found that washable suede, which she has used for overalls, tops and bodysuits, combined well with the fluid heavyweight silk/viscose of her winter collection.

Suede, as Ms Jackson says, is a sexy material — a good designer will use but not exploit this quality. Miss Muir first started using it when she discovered its affinity with jersey. Like Mr Preston, she enjoys the challenge of cutting suede. "It is nice to cut in a strict, geometric way, then put it into a supple skin. But also you can paint with it — it is like using big pieces of colour. You can appliqué it, bind it with gold, and of course it takes dye beautifully — anything natural does."

Jean Muir's suede jacket shown here costs £812, a three-quarter length coat is £925, and a short straight skirt is £432. Her clothes are available from Harrods, SW1; Harvey Nichols, SW1; Lucienne Phillips, SW1; Pollyanna, Barnesley; Olive Walton, Birmingham; and Jane Davidson, Edinburgh.

But that very naturalness worries some people. Most designers avoid the word skin, and call it fabric. Ms Buckle believes this is wrong. "Leather is a by-product. If we did not eat meat we would not have the skins."



Classic: Maxfield Parrish's suede parka and jodhpurs



Perfect curves: a sky-blue, catwalk jacket from Jean Muir's autumn/winter collection

## Will you be wearing your children's clothes in the year 2000?

Who knows what you'll be sporting at the turn of the century?

A space-age jump suit made from recycled newspapers, with marching green accessories, perhaps?

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The whole competition, as well as the final, will be featured on ITV's "Motor Mouth" programme.

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The one famous for the attractive little Black Horse number.



Designs from previous years are being exhibited at the V&A from 7 August to 12 January.

The "breakfast" store's design director is looking to new watches and a diamond ring to enhance its public image

## Excess at Tiffany's?

In 1837, the year of Queen Victoria's accession to the throne, a young American named Charles Lewis Tiffany opened a fancy goods store in New York on the strength of a \$1,000 loan. Within 50 years the queen was one of the 23 heads of state who patronised Tiffany & Co. Today, Tiffany and its customers seem unaware of words such as recession: expansion in Europe is proceeding at a breakneck speed, the company last year having turned over half a billion dollars.

Last week John Loring, the Tiffany design director since 1979, was sitting amid the dust and disarray of a five-storey building site spread across two 18th-century buildings in Old Bond Street. From a glance at the plans it seems clear that the store, scheduled to emerge from its trade mark Tiffany turquoise scaffolding as early as December 4, will make its near neighbour and rival, Asprey & Co, appear positively homely.

Mr Loring is a Yale graduate in his mid-forties who, as well as being a prolific designer of everything from chinaware to jewellery, is also a master printmaker, painter, writer, naturalist and — word has it — a highly accomplished chef. This, by rights, should render him insufferable, but in fact Mr Loring is a affable and modest man who plays down his role in the chain of production, talking animatedly and with contagious excitement of his collaborations with the formidable array of master craftsmen at his disposal. Such self-effacement is rare, I suggest, among people in so key a position. Mr Loring disagrees. "Most assured people are modest," he says, assuredly.

Tiffany re-opened in London after a gap of more than 40 years in 1986. What is the thinking behind such bullish expansion amid the doldrums of 1991? "We have an enormous range of goods to offer and we lacked the space to present them," Mr Loring says. "London was especially targeted because it is a capital of great style."

Mr Loring acknowledges that the last thing the grander English houses need is another



Atlas watch: £600 in silver

dinner service or an accretion of amusing and expensive trinkets, but sees nothing wrong in catering to the new rich (who have done so much for the flagship Fifth Avenue store) as well as to "the old rich who may want something new".

This is not to say that Tiffany goods in any way lack taste. On the contrary, the bulk of its catalogue is remarkably fine, quality of design, materials and workmanship being the common denominator throughout the ranges of jewellery, silver, watches, flatware, china, and silks. Some of the patterns date back to the last century, while others — such as Mr Loring's chunky steel and gold watch provisionally called the Tondo — are not yet in production; his clocks are restrained and classical and yet rather avant-garde, the same is true of much of the china.

The problem that Tiffany must overcome, however, is that despite the company's age, venerability and fame, the public cannot latch on to any one product that epitomises Tiffany style. Carrier has its Tank watch, Hermès its scarf, Gucci its loafers, Dunhill its lighter and Chanel its little suit: what is Tiffany's motif?

object? Mr Loring put forward a solitaire diamond ring "with the Tiffany six-pronged setting", but that does not stand a chance: no one has heard of it. A possibility is the Atlas watch, inspired by the clock over the entrance to the New York store.

But the truth is that the only thing people really associate with Tiffany's is breakfast (they will supply the crockery, but not the croissants), all because of that daff but pleasant Sixties film with Audrey Hepburn. Does this link the Tiffany establishment? The answer, the framed and original poster, hangs on the office wall of the managing director, the Hon Rosa Monckton. Further, Hepburn contributed a fairly embarrassing, but no doubt heartfelt, introductory poem to one of Mr Loring's handsome coffee table books, *Tiffany's 150 Years*, in which she says "Class doesn't age", while also managing to quote bits of Keats. "Audrey," Mr Loring says, "has been very, very good for us."

JOSEPH CONNOLLY

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# Genius: a gift or hard graft?

Victoria McKee  
reports on a  
remarkable insight  
into the minds of  
our most gifted  
children and  
their parents

Sixteen years after she began researching "gifted" children, and what sets them apart from their peers, Joan Freeman, a psychologist, is ready to offer her conclusions. Will parents be delighted or dismayed to learn that, in Dr Freeman's view, genius is not the prerogative of the privileged, and that a "gifted" child often requires a lot of hard work?

Dr Freeman, the president of the European Council for High Ability and an honorary lecturer at the University of London Institute of Education, has interviewed more than 200 young people and their parents "in places as different as the governor's office in a women's open prison, a brewery laboratory, the back of a taxi and the head's office in a school", she says. She visited them first when the children were aged from five to 14, to assess their potential and their parents' expectations, and then ten years later. The results will be published later this month as *Gifted Children Growing Up*.

Dr Freeman was concerned that many bright children were being prevented from fulfilling their potential because of an inadequate social structure, or school. Many parents would probably support the latter part of this theory. Karen Barton, a philosophy teacher in Swindon, Wiltshire, has decided to teach her seven-year-old daughter, Yolanda, at home this year, "because our education authority doesn't believe in acceleration, and Yolanda was finding school mind-blowingly boring". Yolanda, who could read at 18 months, is "into Einstein's general theory of relativity at the moment", her mother says, and reads it to her sister Portia, aged four-and-a-half. "Can you believe that her first teacher said she was 'backward'?" Mrs Barton demands.

Stuart McDonald, aged 14, starts full-time next week at Ichna College, Southampton, where he will be doing double maths and physics A-levels. His mother says: "Stuart felt he had outgrown school. He used to be almost physically sick there, he was so bored."

Not all gifted children go on to become university professors like Ruth Lawrence, a research fellow at Harvard university. For example, Adrian — who was a milkman when Dr Freeman interviewed him at the age of 22 — told her: "I was amazed to pass my A-levels, because I hadn't turned up for weeks... Then I enrolled at the polytechnic, and left after a year by mutual consent. I'd picked the wrong course... Then I decided to earn some money. I was very, very lucky to get this job as a milkman... I've enjoyed the job a lot..."

Nicholas, out of work at 21 after a stint with an antiques firm and a spell in the French Foreign Legion, told her: "It wasn't that I hated school, I was bored... I didn't leave jobs because I didn't like them, I felt that I could have done a better job than the person above... I want to be somewhere at the top..."

Dr Freeman feels her study gives the greatest insight available into the minds of gifted children and their parents. "This kind of work, which involves going into people's homes, is extremely time-consuming and expensive, which is why it is so rarely done," she says. "One has an instinct about what to ask, and you've got to be intelligent — which I am — and enormously aware." Dr Freeman was a gifted child, and is the mother of four children, at least two of whom, she maintains, are gifted.



Home work: Yolanda Barton found school "mind-blowingly boring", now she is "into Einstein's general theory of relativity"

One third of her sample of 210 were children whose parents had identified them as gifted. Each was matched with two "control" children — the first for comparable intelligence, the second taken at random, and all three from the same school.

Eighty-one percent of the whole sample were then interviewed for the second stage of the study — on their own, and with their parents.

Of the "gifted" children, some were academically talented, whereas others possessed a particular talent for art or music. All were culled from the membership of the National Association for Gifted Children. Dr Freeman notes: "At that time, membership did not require any test for the children, which meant that, by the very act of joining, parents had made a clear statement of their belief in their child's high ability." Their general intelligence was tested first with a non-verbal "pattern" test (where they had to fit the correct missing part into a pattern) and then with a detailed intelligence quotient (IQ). Dr Freeman found that those "who had been measured as having virtually identical intelligences on the pattern test scored significantly differently on the detailed IQ test". She claims that the differences were directly related to their home circumstances. She found that "a bright child living in an educationally poor environment could score the same IQ as a child of more modest abilities in a really good educational environment".

This supported her theory that it is neither nature nor nurture but a complex interaction between the

two that is responsible for apparent "giftedness". "Give or take 10 per cent, the usually accepted figures are that about 70 per cent of the variance between people in intellectual ability is due to inherited differences, and the rest to environmental effect," she says. "But for the intellectually gifted, the situa-

schools' potential (*Bright as a Button*) says that it also became clear to her that what parents did was more important than what they said. "The parents who had the most positive effects on their children's high-level development were not those who told their children what to do, but those who did it with them."

*The parents who had the most positive effects... were not those who told children what to do, but those who did it with them*

tion is rather different. Though their genetic endowment cannot be changed, the environmental influence on their intelligence quotient score is greater because of their extra mental power to take in and make more effective use of the information and ideas."

She says that the material provision the children had to learn with — books, space, musical instruments, paper and so on — and parental involvement, were more important than great expectations or parents' attitude to education. "In simple terms, it was not a very effective move for a parent to say to a child: 'Here is a book about flowers: go out and identify some.' What was effective was when a parent said: 'Let's use this book to find out the names of the flowers — together.'"

Dr Freeman, who has also written a book for parents eager to make the most of their pre-

Michael Howe, of Exeter university, whose paper to the British Association on whether "genius" (a word he avoids) is more input than innate was reported in *The Times* last month, agrees with Dr Freeman and places even greater emphasis on training. "I would stress parental involvement in the very early years: one to one interaction is extremely important. When you send children to school or classes too early it's not the same," says Professor Howe, who is the author of *The Origins of Exceptional Ability*.

Dr Freeman noticed among the differences between her target and control groups, that target mothers frequently took the greatest share of responsibility for their child's education, but both the target father and mother put greater educational pressure on their

children than the parents in the other groups.

"One of the greatest surprises, and people don't believe me, was the invidious effect of social class in this country," Dr Freeman says. "The way it holds people back. One boy, his father was a lathe-turner, had gone to Manchester Grammar School and got three A grades at A-level but didn't go to university. He said: 'It's not for me. It's for them money boys.'"

"He had joined the electricity board and was digging ditches. Well, I know you're not supposed to try to influence them as a researcher, but I said, 'there are such things as scholarships', and he went on a sandwich course and came out with a first class degree."

Her study suggests that boys are "more susceptible to family discord than girls, and highly able children are probably more sensitive to it than others". And unhappy children she found, "generally achieved less well than those of the same ability who had enjoyed peace of mind". Among her many suggestions are that pupils should be offered "frequent one-to-one interviews with a specially trained teacher or counsellor one who also keeps good contact with the parents", and that the education system should recognise that children who do well in examinations "are a particular group, with very specific mental skills, and they do not represent all gifted individuals".

Gifted Children Growing Up, published by Cassell on September 27 (£30 hardback, £10.95 paperback). Bright as a Button, published by Macdonald Optima next Monday (£6.99). © Times Newspapers Ltd 1991

## Roaming in Wyoming

Gretel Ehrlich, writer, Wyoming rancher and sometime sheep herder, shares Robert Redford's passion for the Wild West

There are not many women ranchers in Wyoming and probably only one of the few can lay claim to a Guggenheim Fellowship and membership of the American Academy and Institute of Arts and Sciences. Gretel Ehrlich is one of "the few". She lives on a cattle ranch in Shell and is a writer of novels, short stories and poems. Her work is providing a fertile source of inspiration for artists as diverse as the British choreographer Siobhan Davies and the actor-turned-director Robert Redford.

At Redford's request, Ms Ehrlich has just completed an intensive week at the Sundance studios in Montana, writing an original screenplay that exploits their mutual passion for the American mid-West. And Ms Davies, whose 1988 dance *Wyoming* was inspired by Ms Ehrlich's essays, has invited her to write a cycle of poems which, together with a score by composer John Marc Gowan, will form the soundscape for Ms Davies's new dance work.

There is a crystalline quality to Ms Ehrlich's prose: a peculiar freshness to her depiction of landscapes and experience. A Buddhist since the age of 14, Ms Ehrlich's capacity for vivid and original observation is formidable. To that must be added her highly-developed physical awareness — she trained and

there, her long-time lover, not yet 30, died. The "concussive pain" she suffered at his death fuelled *The Solace of Open Spaces*, one of her finest collections of short essays. Now happily married, she reflects on that desolate time.

"I wrote those pieces at the loneliest period in my life," she says. "I never expect to be that lonely again. It was at a time when the possibility I'd be as fulfilled as I am now seemed inconceivable."

Ms Ehrlich decided to base herself in Wyoming where, she says, the state's "tormenting beauty" exerted a healing effect.

She abandoned her television career and began to write. Much of that early work concentrates on the community she grew to know in Wyoming.

Writing and ranching have occupied Ms Ehrlich ever since. (Her latest collection of essays, *Islands, The Universe and Home*, is published by Viking Penguin next month.) There have, however, been interruptions, such as when, due to a manpower shortage, she was recruited to the job of sheep herder. She grew to love the

work, though, and was terrified of failure the first day she was deposited on a mountain ridge at 5am with a mare and a border collie and told to head towards the hills where the herd of 2,000 sheep had last been seen. She discovered that sheep herding worked as a dancer — which has given her a particular prowess in describing space and movement, especially as they relate to landscape.

"In the Great Plains the vistas look like music, like Kyries of grass," she says, "but Wyoming seems to be the doing of a mad architect — tumbled and twisted, ribboned with faded deathbed colours, thrust up and pulled down as if the place had been startled out of a deep sleep and thrown into a pure light."

The distinctive qualities of Ms Ehrlich's writing are intimately bound up with her extraordinary life.

Born and brought up in California, she has consistently eschewed the conventional values of urban society and embraced instead challenging experience, which has often taken her to live among isolated communities in extreme landscapes.

Ms Ehrlich first visited Wyoming as a television producer in 1976 to film four elderly sheep herders working their way across the Big Horn mountains. While

It is Ms Ehrlich's linguistic resources that are being challenged afresh in her collaboration with Ms Davies. For the first time her words will be interwoven with music and dance in a theatrical performance entitled *Arctic Heart*, which opens in Swindon, Wiltshire, on Sunday and then the Queen Elizabeth Hall, London, on September 25. This specially-commissioned sequence of poems draws on her recent travels in the Arctic Circle. "What struck me most," she says, "was how ephemeral the landscape is there, how, as the ice melts, the panorama is constantly shifting."

Like the Arctic landscape, Ms Ehrlich is unlikely ever to really settle. A self-confessed "chronic vagrant", she will always be driven to explore new territories and new art forms.

ELLEN CRANITCH  
© Times Newspapers Ltd 1991



Outdoor type: Gretel Ehrlich loves the world's wildernesses

## The house that was self-built

Building your own home is growing in popularity, and can be cost-effective

Privately-built, tailor-made houses are not just for the rich or royal as the steady growth in the self-build homes market indicates. To prove that building your own home offers a cost-effective alternative to buying a four-bedroom house will be constructed for the first time during a British consumer exhibition at next week's Self-Build Homes Show in London.

Tempered by average savings on developers' costs of around 30 per cent on the price of the land and building, an estimated 20,000 individuals built their own homes in Britain last year. This represents an increase of 8.5 per cent on the previous year, which compares with an overall drop of 13 per cent on homes completed by developers. The number of self-

build house kit and project management companies in Britain has increased to 60, of whom 20 are exhibiting at the show.

The structural shell of the Denbigh house supplied by Guildway, one of the UK's oldest timber-frame companies, will be erected at the start of the show. Over the next four days the brickwork, plumbing and other fittings will be installed under the auspices of Package Build Management. The house features a Trianco oil-fired central heating boiler. Other suppliers include Butterley Brick and Marley Roof Tile.

"There is a lot of hype about building your own home in Britain," says Roger Burford, Guildway's managing director. "Yet it is a way of life on the Continent and there is increasing awareness and in-



Four-day wonder: the Denbigh house due to be built during the Self-Build Homes Show

terest in the way the French

that's constructed to your own design. "In Britain, self-build homes appeal mainly to individuals who buy a plot, have a friendly local builder and use a range of sub-contractors. It is certainly a cost-saving exercise since there are no developer's costs or overheads and sub-contractors are quoting very competitive rates at the moment. You also end up with an energy-efficient home

erect on site. It will also provide a National House-Building Council certificate, which is necessary if a mortgage is required.

Does a self-built home mean spending months on end surrounded by bricks and mortar? It can do if you wish to be physically involved, living on site for example, but in the majority of cases the larger companies, for example Scandia Hus, Hedlunds and

Design and Materials, prefer to steer clients through the whole project from finance arrangement to purchasing the plot, selecting and adapting the house design, securing planning permission and sub-contracting building work to local teams.

Most people are attracted to self-build kit homes for their cost-effectiveness rather than their design. The timber framework of the designs often act as a shell, being bricked over or plaster-clad in a variety of English vernacular styles, from Georgian mansions to Victorian school houses or even modern estate-type homes.



One of Britain's smaller

self-build companies, Anebyhus, is introducing four new designs at the show. Les Cherriman, an Anebyhus director, says: "Although we have a number of traditional English styles the new houses are designed in response to demand for a more Scandinavian look." The Anebyhus kits range in price from about £27,000 to £54,000.

Building your own kit home means it is possible to adapt the number and size of rooms to suit a specific lifestyle and personally choose the fittings.

Graham Calder, a dentist who built a five-bedroom split-level kit house in Sussex, warns: "It's not a project to be undertaken lightly. You've got to have real faith in what you are doing, a good sense of humour and the guts to get on with it. It was the only way I could afford to get what I wanted."

Design and Materials prepared the plans and obtained planning permission for Mr Calder's home. Throughout its construction the Calder family lived in a converted barn and portable work huts on site. Mr Calder organised a team of sub-contractors, and installed the central heating and plumbing himself. His wife decorated the exterior, his son helped with the brick-laying and a local man tackled the electrics.

Mr Calder says: "I have reasonable DIY and managerial skills. It is really a case of practical determination and common sense. A great deal of thought went into it and as the project became real we discovered things we didn't like and changed them."

The work took a year with a three-month winter break. "I don't think any of us actually enjoyed it and we came near to divorce in the Portakabins in the winter. But we now have a tremendous sense of achievement in having done it," Mr Calder says.

Having paid a sum of £157,000 outright for the plot, Mr Calder estimates that the house cost £143,000 to build with an additional £10,000 for interior fittings. It is now worth around £500,000.

NICOLE SWENGLEY  
© Times Newspapers Ltd 1991



## Woodrow Wyatt

Hong Kong is more likely to take over China than vice versa

As we approach July 1, 1997 — the date of the handover of Hong Kong to China — hysteria rises not in the colony but in Britain. The end of communism in the Soviet Union and the emergence of republics more or less independent of the Kremlin has stimulated tremors of guilt at the prospect of our allowing the Stalinist tyrants of Tiananmen Square to devour Hong Kong. Mr Major was sharply attacked for yielding to Chinese pressure to visit Peking to sign the new international Hong Kong airport agreement, as though he were Chamberlain appeasing Hitler. Suggestions that we should now dodge our obligations under the Sino-British Joint Declaration of 1984 are rare.

About half the cash for the airport will come from international bankers. If they had thought the project might be cancelled in 1997, building would not have started and the blow to Hong Kong's future prosperity would have been devastating. Peking, ever suspicious, feared that we were spending Hong Kong's reserves for the benefit of foreign traders. Mr Major behaved with dignity and resolution, his outspoken criticisms over human rights depriving the Chinese of what they thought would be a complete diplomatic victory. Yesterday, Luo Hai Xing, the Hong Kong businessman imprisoned for helping Chinese dissidents, was released. This will not lead to a rush of amnesties, but Mr Major shrewdly reminded Peking of its vulnerability, with his list of political prisoners, and that excessive harshness may lead to trading penalties.

This weekend sees the first direct elections to Hong Kong's Legislative Council for 18 out of 60 seats. In 1995, 30 seats will be directly elected, rising to 30 in 2003. This is still not enough, but Peking has not ruled out an increase in the number of directly-elected seats before 1997. Even if this does not happen, a majority of the Legislative Council will be elected by 1997, if one includes those elected by various professional and trade groups.

With Chinese overlord, the atmosphere will be different, but there are many pressures, plus the lodging of the Sino-British agreement with the United Nations, to make it tolerable. China is now the largest investor in Hong Kong, and earns half its foreign exchange through Hong Kong. Hong Kong has 60 per cent of all foreign investment in China, and is China's largest trading partner and largest market. The old gentlemen in Peking would be amazingly foolish to wreck Hong Kong's commercial structure. Hong Kong is more likely to take over China than vice versa. Just over the border, in Guangdong Province, nearly 12,000 Hong Kong companies already employ more than two million Chinese.

However, it is unwise to believe that if there were free elections in China the reasonably fed multitudes of Chinese peasants would not overwhelmingly vote for Peking's rulers. But this will change as China becomes more Westernised. We have nothing to be ashamed of, except perhaps forcing China to cede a few fishing villages in 1841 as a result of the first Opium War. Since then, Hong Kong has become the world's 11th biggest trading entity. We should not discourage Hong Kongers by horror stories unlikely to prove true; we should encourage them to grasp a glittering future. We will still have influence there, and the power to cause uproar if China reneges on its agreement to keep Hong Kong as it is for at least 50 years. There was never a hope of retaining Hong Kong as a British colony, nor that partial transition of power in the run-up to 1997 could be avoided.

Janet Daley is astonished at the fuss surrounding the sale of valuable heirlooms from Althorp House

## Selling the silver spoon



Lord and Lady Spencer: said to be auctioning the estate

It's just like Jane Austen. The kindly but feeble widowed Earl marries beneath him. Or, so his children think. His new wife, with her vulgar tastes and a ruthless way with family heirlooms, is said to be not only flogging the treasures which they expected to inherit, but cutting down the great estate itself by allowing its cottages to be sold. That, at least, is what the juicier bits of gossip — denied yesterday — suggest about the family of the Princess of Wales.

Jane Austen, of course, would have had no difficulty taking sides on this one. For her, being of gentle birth and upholding the rights of one's peers to their inherited cultural baggage, was tantamount to defending civilisation. The occasional upstart could be tolerated provided that he (or, more rarely, she) fell in with the priorities of his betters.

Unless you have an ideology which permits categorical judgments about these things, you are likely to be rather less sure where you stand. I can sympathise with the Spencer offspring leaving frantically through the upper-class version of *Exchange and Mart* to see which is the latest speagaw to pass out of their hands. But, having grown up in the United States, I do find my democratic hackles rising at this sort of privileged pantomime, which should have van-

ished ages ago. That it survives — that the British countryside is still littered with stately piles occupied by descendants of their original founders — owes something to the help of the National Trust, that great benefactor of distressed aristocrats.

One of the moral complications of hereditary wealth is its role in keeping our cultural heritage alive. Most of us would be loathe to see the great country houses fall into disuse as homes. To prevent them becoming lifeless museums, we are beguiled into maintaining their owners in the style to which they have become accustomed. (Not that the Spencers are receiving any subsidy — which may be why they are auctioning the silver.)

More directly, the amazing survival of the British landed class is due to the custom of primogeniture. Having the entire estate pass to the eldest male heir has guaranteed that title and property are not separated, and that accumulated wealth remains intact rather than being dispersed. Thus, however large the family, the house with its antiques and the land with its tenants remain together, a single entity.

Depending on your politics, this makes for either an invincible atavism or a reassuring continuity. In France, where it is customary to divide estates equally among the children, social prestige is no longer identified with rural acreage and great houses.

The social gaucherie of the self-made — of having new furniture and jewels, of being sullied by commerce — has never died in these islands, largely because of

the persistence of a landed upper class whose values have never been superseded.

Resentment of those who inherit great wealth may be nearly universal, but our attitudes change when it comes to the fruits of more modest prosperity.

The passing on of enormous estates and titles strikes us as unjust, but we believe we have a fundamental right to leave our own money and possessions to our

children. Indeed, any political party which publicly toys with taking away that right brings down outraged accusations of totalitarianism.

Mrs Thatcher always argued fervently that people should be encouraged to work harder, not only to improve their own lives, but to secure the future of their children. Council-house sales were popular, because people felt that a lifetime spent caring for a home earned them the right to pass it on to their descendants.

Some would argue that there was a contradiction in this insistence on the right to bequeath wealth when the dominant Thatcherite theme was self-help. But this is to misunderstand what Mrs Thatcher meant by personal responsibility. The doctrine of self-reliance does not mean that everyone has to start from scratch in every generation. Without the right to pass on the benefits of one's hard work, there would be much less incentive to succeed.

But by offering more opportunity to create and bequeath wealth, are we simply enlarging an inheriting class whose indolent ethos has damaged our attitude

to work? Will the children of the new bourgeoisie, with their manses in Essex and the invested profits from their garage businesses, simply degenerate into a pseudo-aristocracy?

Indeed they may, but it need not be so. In America, where wealth is much more common than here, the children of millionaires are expected to work for a living like everyone else. They may go into the family business or into the professions, but even the richest of my university friends expected to work after graduation. Not to earn one's own keep was to be a "drop-out", a scrounger or a bum.

During his presidential campaign, nothing counted so much against John Kennedy as the fact that his father had given him a personal fortune so that he could devote his life to politics without working. What is commonplace here — a politician with a private income — was considered scandalous in America. And this was not because the freedom to be idle was envied — most ordinary people in America would not find idleness enviable — but because not having to work was seen as being an unnatural existence, a form of permanent immaturity.

Inheritance is not damaging. What matters is that people do not feel that along with the money, they have inherited innate superiority.

Archdeacon Austin's call for a schism could lead to a witch-hunt in the Church, warns Edward Norman

The division, disruption and consequent demise of the Church of England has been predicted by observers both within its ranks and outside, ever since it came into its present form in the 16th century. It has proved tougher than they thought. But even to institutions which are protected by class solidarity, by the constitutional apparatus of the state, by the lethargic acceptance of the public, and even, one hopes, by truth, there comes a limit. The Church of England is the astonishing survival of centuries of accommodations and compromises: it is perhaps ideally suited to a people who are ideologically inept, and its existence defines a number of negative considerations — it is loved for its very imprecision about formulas of faith which have elsewhere wrought havoc among the compromisers.

But the prospect of a further round of internal divisions is not to be welcomed. The four steps to a cutting up of the whole enterprise into two de facto separate churches, raised in Archdeacon George Austin's York sermon on Sunday, would have the effect of intruding ideological inquisition into every parish and ecclesiastical institution in the land.

If the Church of England were in a more resilient mood, or if there were a genuine taste for theological speculation among its members, things might just scrape by; but the reality is a church which is largely demoralised in all those parts of its being that are not currently responding to the Evangelical revival, and a public which tends to regard the church's benign

incoherence as no longer a matter of crucial national debate. It is easy to understand Archdeacon Austin's frustration. On the one hand there is Christian truth, founded upon dogmatic Revelation, and delivered forever to a "people of God" whose existence in the world needs distinct recognition and assured self-identity. On the other hand there is the Church of England — an institution which is quite frankly worldly, in the sense that its leaders define their understanding of Christianity according to an agenda of moral and social concerns which appears to differ in no important particulars from the material agenda of the secular intelligentsia.

This is an age in which "the spiritual" is frequently misunderstood. Church leaders confuse the spiritual with the moral (often, indeed, using the words interchangeably), and their impatience with spiritual formation, when the world is concerned with great issues of morality, is undisguised. Their charges are urged not to dwell on the cultivation of individual spiritual understanding, but to involve themselves with the issues of justice and peace: issues doubtless important enough in themselves, but not the substance of spirituality.

Similarly, the word spiritual is now commonly applied to describe quite plainly material aspects of personality, or to promote musical or artistic accomplishments, as if they too were evidences of spirituality. The Anglican leadership is second to nobody in understanding "the spiritual" in this way. Thus the church accommodates the priorities of the age as they come along, in the guise of "higher" pursuits.

Austin sees these leaders as a bunch of "liberals", giving one another all the important posts and excluding those who do not fit. In his interpretation, the excluded are "traditionalists". In practice this may often be the result, but not because of any willful desire to discriminate against the traditionalists. To the extent that the "liberals" really are liberal, they seek to perpetuate a balanced church, including people who interpret Christianity in various ways. To the extent that the "liberals" are actually engaged in a conspiracy of exclu-

sion, they are not very successful, since their own internal divisions do not allow a coherent policy of appointments on ideological grounds.

Traditionalists are often devalued promotion in the church not because they are traditionalists or conservatives, but because they are controversial. The leaders of the church are great compromisers, who cannot countenance rocking of the boat. Saving it in half has even less appeal.

Depicting the church as a polarity of "liberals" and "traditionalists" is unhelpful and unrealistic. In some areas, the church has necessarily to adapt its representation of truth to the

intellectual categories of the era, and in others it has a duty to declare the immutability of its doctrines. Critics should notice that the problem with the existing leadership is not that it is trying to do the wrong things, but that it does not do them very well. In their enthusiasm to acclaim the insights of the contemporary — no bad thing in itself — church leaders have mixed up the issues, and in doing so have failed to recognise their transience.

Christian truth is delivered in two ways. First, it comes as doctrine: clear revelations given by Christ and developed by the people to whom he entrusted them. These relate to the nature

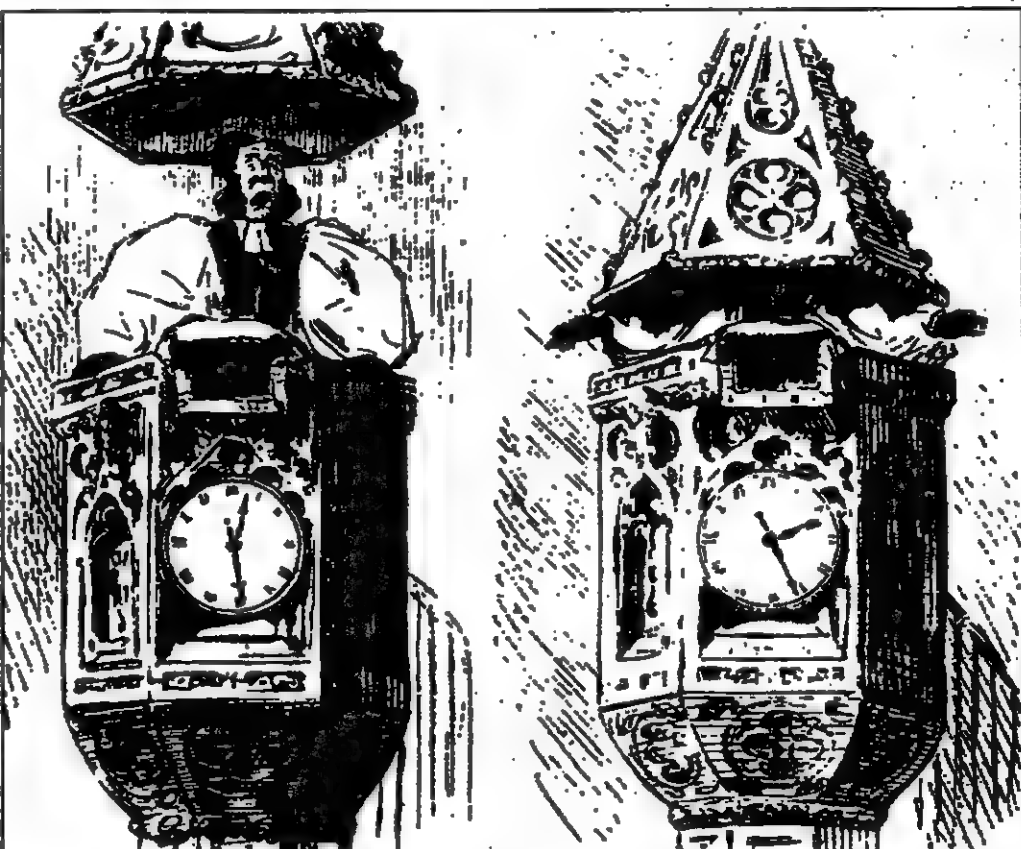
of God and to the inherent corruptions of his creature. Secondly it comes as moral teaching: the application of Christian truth to the world of human social exchange, and as this is a world continually changing, the application of Christian truth also requires constant adaptation.

It is to be hoped that, bar the odd theological remnant of 1960s intellectual philandering, the leaders of the church and its members are in agreement about the immutability of doctrine. The divisions are about the moral applications in the world, and this is where the world so easily leaks into discussions. The trouble here, and the reason why Archdeacon Austin's imagined division would not work, is that those who are "traditionalist" about one issue are often "liberal" about another.

It is a matter of record, for example, that some who subscribe to the Catholic tradition also favour the ordination of women, and that many who call themselves "liberal" did not show themselves to be particularly open to contemporary insights when they came to discuss, as the Church of England always seems to be coming to discuss, the question of homosexuality.

The leadership of the church is no more and no less effective than the leadership of the other important institutions. This is because it is of the same manufacture. It shares the horror of critical thought that the "safe men" have always demonstrated. Yet truth is advanced by testing and by questioning. Without controversy there is stagnation. What the Archdeacon has correctly noticed is that the "safe men" run the church as they nearly always have done. But this has never prevented the prophets and the critics from telling them where to get off.

Dr Norman is dean of Christ Church College, Canterbury



A Church for troublemakers: Punch's way of silencing turbulent priests last century

...and moreover

## CRAIG BROWN

I trundled into our village shop. The bell on the door issued its merry tring. "Hello and welcome," said the butcher. "Could I go straight into the first question please from the man with the blue shirt, Sir?"

"Do you mean me?" I said.

"Yes, sir, you sir, in the blue shirt. Your first question, please!" He looked at his notes. "Something about mince, I believe."

It was odd. Normally, he just says, "What can I get you?" I was not used to this new, pacy delivery.

"Could I have a couple of lamb chops, please?" I said.

The butcher looked again at his notes, and then back to me. There was a tinge of irritation in his voice. "I was expecting a question about mince. You don't have a question about mince?"

I shook my head. "No," I said. "I just wondered if I could possibly have a couple of lamb chops."

"Fine," said the butcher. He turned to his staff behind the counter, two on either side of him. "The gentleman wants to know whether he can have two lamb chops. If I could turn to you, Geoffrey, where do you stand on this?"

The butcher's assistant, Geoff, then began a long dissertation on the rights and wrongs of giving me a couple of lamb chops, going on to discuss what price would be fair both to the customer and to the retail trade, and rounding it all off with a more general

discussion on the pros and cons of high-intensity farming. "Thank you Geoffrey," said the butcher, clicking his biro. "That certainly raises a number of points which the rest of the panel will, I am sure, wish to comment on. Pamela?"

Pam, in charge of fruit and veg, looked confident. "With the greatest respect to Geoffrey," she replied, "I'm afraid he once again sidestepped the real issues. What the gentleman in the blue shirt wanted to know was, could he have a couple of lamb chops? Now this raises all sorts of fundamental points which I'd like to answer in three separate stages. First..."

While Pam tackled the problems of meat imports being directly linked to the balance of payments in a time of recession, I leant over to a fellow-shopper and asked her in a hushed voice what on earth was happening. "It's the BBC Question Time," she explained. "It's back on our screens this week. Its influence is everywhere. Sex and violence I can take, but lively debate on matters of topical interest that really gets on my wick. You can't go anywhere these days without being faced with lively debate on matters of topical interest, and it's corrupting our children. Have you seen them in the sweet shop? Kids of five or six arguing about proportional representation! I don't know where it'll end, I really don't!"

While the third panellist, Frank from soft drinks and beverages, launched into a bit-

ter condemnation of Pamela's "downright evasiveness" on the question of European Community restrictive practices regarding lamb products, it dawned on me that my lamb chops wouldn't be arriving for quite a while, so I popped outside for some fresh air.

The vicar was bicycling past. "Morning, vicar," I trilled, "lovely day, isn't it?"

"That's an urgent question facing every man, woman and child in this great country of ours," he replied, coming to a halt. "And I'd like to answer it absolutely frankly, if I may. First of all, let me make it perfectly clear that while the day is, indeed lovely, per se..."

"I'm sorry, I'm very sorry, but I really can't let that last statement go unchecked. I'm sorry but I can't." It was the postman. "Let's not mince words. The day may look very lovely to you but for all sorts of ordinary decent folk the length and breadth of the country it's not a lovely day at all, not at all."

How I yearn for the days before lively debate on matters of topical interest gained its grip on our village. Alas, I fear there is no turning back. On Sunday, I noticed a microphone on a hand-held boom above my head as I walked into church. Today, even the ducks on the village pond were beginning to demand their own swivel-chairs. "Where will it all end?" I asked our dustman. "I'm glad you asked me that," he replied. He's been weighing up the options ever since.

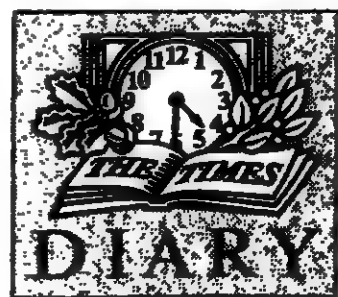
## Still secret society

WITH the KGB boasting on the letters pages of this newspaper and others that it is now more open to public scrutiny than MI5 and MI6, Whitehall has the perfect opportunity to introduce a little glasnost of its own. The Public Records Act confirmed yesterday that the unwritten rule which exempts security service documents from publication under the 30-year rule comes up for review next year. With the Cold War a thing of the past, pressure is growing on ministers to release sensitive documents that have previously been classified.

The ban on the release of any information was imposed in 1967 under the Public Records Act, which reduced the period of disclosure of other government records from 50 to 30 years. That the ban existed was only publicly confirmed ten years later in a debate in the House of Lords in 1977 by the then Labour Lord Chancellor Lord Elwyn-Jones. He admitted the assurance had been given privately to the heads of the security services.

Chapman Pincher, the veteran spy-writer, says: "MI5 and MI6 will argue that once you start giving away there will be no end to it. They are right. The ban should stay. It is the only way to give an absolute assurance to people who engage in espionage activities that their identities will never be revealed. People should not be fooled by the KGB's apparent openness. They only tell us what they want us to know."

Lord Denning, who was the chairman of the advisory council on public records when the ban was imposed, says: "The ban should be reimposed for a minimum of 100 years, although if the



KGB says it has nothing to hide we should publish everything we have got on their spying activities in the West. They would soon retreat back behind the Kremlin."

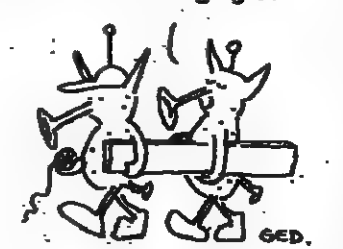
A Tory government is likely to be sympathetic to such a view although Labour detects a whiff of hypocrisy. "We will bring the security services inside our freedom of information act. Their documents would be published unless they could show very good reasons why they should remain secret," said Roy Hattersley's office yesterday.

With characteristic timing — that is to say just 100 years — the Soviet spy industry has produced a new board game called "Bringing in the harvest". With crops from apples to grain expected to be well down on last year, the idea of producing one's very own five-year plan is a laudable one, and probably has just as much chance of success as the old Kremlin model. "Bringing in the harvest", the instructions declare, "is not a game of skill but of chance". How true.

Stockpiles, hayricks LONDON'S most famous occult bookshop, Watkins, is having no truck with the Southampton hoaxsters who confessed to newspapers yesterday that they were responsible for the mystery of the

corn circles. "The newspapers are full of lies," said an angry spokesman for the shop, which specialises in books on magic, astrology and psychic phenomena. The enigma remains, insists the shop. So, too, will its window display, erected last week, of books

The media still believe the other two guys.



on crop circles, explaining the phenomenon by reference to aliens from outer space, energy currents and other causes far more plausible than two men with a ball of string, an old baseball cap and 4 ft wooden planks.

## Facade as backdrop

SADLER'S WELLS' decision to use the designs from Sir Frederick Ashton's *Facade* to commemorate the life of Dame Margot Fonteyn has not been entirely welcomed by the dancer's friends. Patricia Foy, who produced several television programmes with Fonteyn, says: "Facade was such a tiny part of Margot's repertoire. It just had small parts and she did it as a bit of fun. The ballet doesn't epitomise her life at all. She should be remembered for far more important roles in *Giselle* and *Sleeping Beauty*."

The designs have been removed from the stage and will be adopted

## Torytours Ltd

JOHN MAJOR expressed all the proper reservations on his recent visit to China, but it seems they are not shared by Tory central office. The party headquarters has entered the travel business for the first time, by running a 10-day trip to Peking to raise funds for its general election campaign. The trip is advertised in *Conservative Newsline*, which declares: "We are delighted to announce that *Newsline* has teamed up with group travel specialists Page & Moy to bring you an exceptionally good value ten-night holiday to China." And "yes, there will be plenty of time to see Tiananmen Square," the travel company said yesterday.

The expatriate Hong Kong community in London is not impressed. Dominic Lee, deputy chairman of the Hong Kong executive club, says: "I can see John Major condemn human rights in China on one hand and on the other sanction his party raising funds by running holidays there. It's double standards."

Tories seem equally sceptical. Despite a bargain price of less than £800 for the ten days, to date there has not been a single reservation for the December trip.

As part of its drive to win the support of electors overseas, Tory chairman Chris Patten has written to Lady Chinn, wife of the Liberal Democrat peer. Clearly the equalitarian conversion of the Tory party is now complete. The letter is addressed to "Ms Chinn (Lady)".





# DIVIDING EUROPE

## WAYS OF PARTNERSHIP

## LEST WE FORGET

## Need for tougher restrictions on bail

## Football for free

## Priest's resignation

### Discretionary grants

## Home ownership

## Place of nutrients in healthy eating

## Arts funding

likely to add to the downward pressure on house prices.

## M25 pollution

## A parish clerk's lot

## Modern hazard

From Dr M. J. Pucci  
Sir, We have three smoke alarms which think they are cockerels (letter, September 5). Five requests so far for a battery change have all taken place during the early morning hours, waking the household.  
Then starts the mini-safari to find which one requires "feeding".  
Yours sincerely,  
MARTIN PUCCI,  
110 Ness Circle,  
Ellon, Aberdeenshire.  
September 5.





## COURT CIRCULAR

## BALMORAL CASTLE

September 9: The Right Hon John Major, MP (Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury) and Mrs Major have left the Castle.

## BUCKINGHAM PALACE

September 9: The Prince Edward, Chairman of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Special Projects Group, this morning started the Mars Olympic Torch Appeal run from Buckingham Palace.

The Princess Royal this afternoon visited Gloucester and was received by Colonel Sir Anthony Karver (Vice-Lord Lieutenant of Gloucestershire).

Her Royal Highness opened the Control and Command Centre at the County Ambulance Service Headquarters, Horton Road, Gloucester, and afterwards opened the new building phase of Gloucestershire Royal Hospital, Great Western Road, Gloucester.

Mrs Andrew Feldon was in attendance.

Miss Alexandra Loyd and Wing Commander David Barton, RAF, were in attendance.

## KENSINGTON PALACE

September 9: The Princess of Wales visited the Royal Star and Garter Home at Richmond, Surrey.

Miss Alexandra Loyd and Wing Commander David Barton, RAF, were in attendance.

## Forthcoming marriages

Mr J.M. Ballingham Kbe and Miss S. Stokes. The engagement is announced between James, son of Brigadier and Mrs Michael Kbe, of Cayton Manor, Northamptonshire, and Sara Jane, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Robert Stokes, of Childs Court, Streteley, Berkshire.

Mr J.J. Carey-Wilson and Miss E.E. Walker. The engagement is announced between James, son of the late Mr Hilary Wilson and of Elizabeth Carey-Wilson, of Halewell, Wiltshire, Gloucestershire, and Susan, daughter of the late Mr Terence Walker and of Gillian Walker, of Norwich, Norfolk.

Mr J.O. Conyn and Miss A.L. Emswara. The engagement is announced between Oliver, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Victor Conyn, of Hardington Mandeville, Somerset, and Annie, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Frank Rushton, of Cockermouth, Cumbria.

Mr A.S. Garand and Miss N.J. Squire. The engagement is announced between Andrew, son of Mr and Mrs M.J. Garand, of Orpington, Kent, and Nicola, daughter of Mr and Mrs D.B. Squire, of Maidens Green, Berkshire.

Mr S.T. Shaper and Miss L.T. Bennett. The engagement is announced between Stephen Timmer, elder son of the Rev Canon Allan and Mrs Simper, of Dover, and Lisa Theresa, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs N. Bocarro, of North Wembley.

Mr D.E.J. Stevens and Miss L.S. Johnston. The engagement is announced between Daniel, son of Dr Dominic Stevens, of Bolton, Lancashire, and Mrs Annette Stevens, of Hinton House, Clifton, Bristol, and Lily, daughter of Mr and Mrs Nicholas Johnston, of Shillingford House, Farnham, Dorsetshire.

## Birthdays today

Mr Thomas Allen, singer, 47; Mrs Beryl Cook, painter, 55; Mr John Entwistle, rock guitarist, 47; Miss Judy Gerson, actress, 43; Professor C.H.M.J. Gilles, expert on tropical medicine, 70; Mr Anthony Hitchens, chairman, MB Group, 55; Mr Christopher Hogwood, musicologist, 50; Mr Niall MacDermot, QC, former secretary general, International Commission of Jurists, 75; Major J.D. Mappin, Crichton Mainland, Lord Lieutenant of Renfrewshire, 66; the Very Rev Michael Mayne, Dean of Westminster, 62; Mr Norman Morris, choreographer, 60; Mr Justice Nolan, 63; Mr Neville Owens, chief constable, Lincolnshire, 53; Mr Arnold Palmer, golfer, 62; General Sir Antony Read, former governor, Royal Hospital, Chelsea, 78; Sir Peter Rye, former MP, 81; Mr Bill Rogers, golfer, 40; Dr Brian Smith, chairman, BAA, 63; Sir Robert Smith, former chairman, Standard Life Assurance, 64; Sir Rupert Spier, former MP, 81; Miss Gwen Watford, actress, 64; Professor Carl Weight, painter, 83.

## Judge retires

Judge Hurwitz retired from the circuit bench of the North Eastern Circuit on September 7. Called to the Bar by Lincoln's Inn in 1952, Vivian Hurwitz became a circuit judge in 1974.

## Today's royal engagements

The Princess Royal, as a Past Master of the Farriers' Company, will attend the press launch of the Desert Orchid Farriers Appeal at the Royal Mews, Buckingham Palace, at 11.00.

The Duke of Gloucester will open the restored Swadcliffe tith barn, of the Oxfordshire Building Trust, at 11.30.

The Duchess of Gloucester will present the YMCA-Today youth awards at a luncheon at the Savoy Hotel at 12.30; and, as Patron of the Association for all Speech Impaired Children, will attend a concert at the Queen Elizabeth Hall at 7.35.

The Duchess of Kent, as Honorary Colonel of the Yorkshire Volunteers, will visit the 1st Battalion at Lydd, Kent, at 11.30.

## Dinner

Two Cities Dining Club. Mr Kenneth Dibben, Chairman of the Two Cities Dining Club, presided at a dinner held last night at the House of Commons by courtesy of the Hon Peter Brooke, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, who was the guest of honour.

## Robert Belgrave

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Robert Belgrave will be held at St Giles', Cripplegate, London, EC2, on Tuesday, November 12, at noon.

## Nature notes

HOBBIES are small, narrow-winged hawks, that catch their prey on the wing. Some are still at their nesting sites on heaths or lonely plough land, others are heading south catching housemartins or dragonflies wherever they can. They fly very fast - now overhead, now far away, their plaintive call fading.

Linnetts gather in flocks in the tops of willow trees, singing their twanging song in chorus. Goldfinches are feeding on thistle seeds, bending their heads forwards delicately to extract them; if they are disturbed, they fly up into a nearby bush and sing a lazy, tinkling song.

In the heat of the afternoon, aspen leaves shiver and whisper like a flowing stream, at the slightest passage of a

breeze. Meanwhile, fruit and seeds are ripening everywhere. Wild rose hips are turning red, on elder bushes the large rosettes of berries are a mixture of green, red and black. If one presses against a burdock plant, one comes away with a whole rug of their hooked brown seeds on one's clothes.

Small tortoiseshell butterflies are abundant; red admirals are starting to join the peacocks on the buddleias.

BJM

## OBITUARIES

## EDWIN McMILLAN

Edwin McMillan, American nuclear physicist who was the co-discoverer of neptunium and plutonium, and developed the synchrocyclotron, died on September 7 in El Cerrito, California, aged 83. He was born on September 18, 1907.

DURING the summer of 1940, Edwin McMillan and a young colleague, Philip Abelson, discovered the first element that lay beyond uranium in the periodic table. Their discovery came at a time of furious productivity in physics, driven by war in Europe and the realisation that nuclear fission might lead to a weapon of unprecedented power. Uranium, supposedly the last and heaviest element, had been named after the outermost planet known at the time of its discovery, Uranus. The new element discovered by McMillan and Abelson was therefore named neptunium, after Neptune, a yet more remote planet since discovered.

McMillan suspected, correctly, that another trans-uranium element was mixed with neptunium, and this turned out to be a material that would change world history. By mid-1941 it had been isolated, and named plutonium, after the outermost of the planets by July 1945 enough of it had been created to carry out the first test explosion, at Alamogordo in New Mexico.

McMillan shared the 1951 Nobel Prize in chemistry with Glenn Seaborg for finding neptunium and plutonium. Like other pioneers of nuclear fission, he was later to express doubts about the way in which governments had used his discoveries.

Educated at the California Institute of Technology and Princeton, McMillan joined the Lawrence laboratory at the University of California in 1934. Ernest Lawrence, inventor of the cyclotron, used it to bombard elements with



high-speed particles in the attempt to create new elements. In Italy Enrico Fermi used the same methods, bombarding uranium with neutrons and hoping to produce the next higher element. Fermi claimed success, but could not prove his claim to have produced element 93. In fact, what he had done was actually more significant, for he had split the uranium atom into two nearly equal parts, releasing fresh neutrons.

In the attempt to explain Fermi's results, McMillan wondered whether some of the neutrons produced by fission might indeed be creating new elements, as Fermi had claimed. With Abelson, he was able to show that an

unidentified element produced in the experiment was indeed element 93, neptunium. They inferred that this element might decay to produce another one, and theory suggested that if it did, this new isotope might be fissile, like uranium-235.

The 60-inch cyclotron at the Lawrence lab was put to work bombarding uranium with deuterons - the nuclei of heavy hydrogen - producing the first fragments of plutonium. Within a year the fissile isotope of plutonium had been found and shown to undergo fission at a rate much higher than uranium-235.

McMillan took part in the Manhattan Project that followed, a scientific stampede to

turn the new discoveries into a weapon. During the war he also worked on radar and sonar but in 1945 returned to the cyclotron.

At the time, the ability to accelerate particles was limited by relativistic effects. Increases in velocity led to increases in mass, which tended to put the particles out of step with the pulses used to accelerate them. This meant that energies higher than 20 million electron volts (MeV) were impossible. In 1945 McMillan and the Soviet physicist Vladimir Veksler, working independently, discovered a way of synchronising the pulses with the increasing mass of the particles; the result, given the name synchrocyclotron, made possible much higher energies. In 1948 the 380 MeV synchrocyclotron at the Lawrence lab discovered the pion-meson particle.

McMillan spent his entire career at the Lawrence laboratory, succeeding Lawrence himself as its head in 1958 and retiring in 1973. Apart from the Nobel Prize, he shared with Veksler the 1963 Atoms for Peace prize, and last year was awarded the National Medal of Science, the highest award for science in the US.

Known as a modest man with unbounded curiosity, McMillan shared the anxieties of many atomic scientists that governments would be unable to control the weapons their discoveries had made possible. He once said: "The way our government deals with the question of disarmament is shameful - a disgrace to our nation". He died just as the revolutionary changes in the Soviet Union have brought the prospect of substantial reductions of nuclear weapons much closer. He leaves a wife, Elsie, two sons and a daughter.

## GERALD SAMBROOKE-STURGESS

Gerald Sambrooke-Sturgess, yachtsman, died on August 31 aged 89. He was born in Birmingham on December 5, 1901.

GERALD Sambrooke-Sturgess, was the father figure of the international yacht racing rules. He sailed until the age of 70 but will be best remembered for his life-long devotion to refining and simplifying the yacht racing rules into simple language that everyone can understand.

He spent most of his life in Norfolk, after moving to Norfolk at the age of two when his father died. Educated at King Edward VI Grammar School, he later graduated as a dental surgeon, following the path of his step-father who also taught him to sail aboard the family's A class Broad, sailing cruiser. As a young man, Sambrooke-Sturgess took over the mantle



of Brooke Heckstall-Smith, buying the copyright to the writings of yacht racing's earliest rule-maker, then set about re-writing his classic work *Yacht Racing*, now in its sixth edition. The commodore of three

yacht clubs in Norfolk at various times, Sambrooke-Sturgess was revered as an elder statesman to the sport within his beloved Broads. During his racing days, he competed in many of the top classes including the International 14 dinghy, the Star and Dragon Olympic class keelboats. His favourite, however, was the Norfolk Punt.

Soon after the second world war, Sambrooke-Sturgess became a founder member of the International Yacht Racing Union's racing rules committee, was appointed vice-chairman in 1964 and chairman in 1973. He remained a consultant to the committee following his retirement in 1978.

He received the Royal Yachting Association's Yachtsman's Award in 1972, a Torch Trophy award in 1973 and, in 1977, the

Queen's Silver Jubilee medal, all for services to the sport. In 1983 he was appointed OBE and last year shared the Beppe Croce trophy, yachting's top award, with the American Greg Bennis for their collaborative work on re-writing the yacht racing rules.

Sambrooke-Sturgess adjudicated at successive Olympic games from 1960 and in his later years became appalled by the increasing lack of rule observance at the highest levels of the sport. "I'm a square - that's what it boils down to - it shocks me to the core. Unless the present young generation pull up their socks there won't be any sport in another decade. It will just be a free for all," he once forecast.

Sambrooke-Sturgess is survived by his wife, Betty, and four children.

## School announcements

## Caterham School

Mr A.D. Moy is the new Headmaster of the Preparatory School and Mr D.C. Humphreys the Second Master in the Main School. Old Caterhamians Day is Sunday, October 13, when a Service of Thanksgiving will be held at 6.00 pm to celebrate 100 years of the OCA. The Preacher will be Rev. Dr. R.O. Latham. Following the service a recital will be given on the new Organ by Dr. K. Abbott.

Major General A.G. Harley (OC) will open the new CCF HQ and classrooms. Matches will be held in the afternoon. Football Day is November 9, and the Old Caterhamians Centenary Dinner in London is on November 22, when Sir Christopher Collett will be the Chief Guest. The Carol Service will be held on Sunday, December 8, and the musical *Gypsies and Dots* performed on December 10-12. Robert Bourke is Senior Prefect and Robert Harding Rugby Captain.

## The Princess Helena College

Autumn term begins today and ends on December 13. Emma Burgess is Head of School. In November Miss Mary Beattie will be retiring as Head of Governors. She will be succeeded by Mrs Martin Laing. Examinations for sixth form scholarships take place on October 3 and applications should be in by September 30. On Saturday, October 12, at 2.00 pm, there will be an Open Afternoon as part of National Boarding Week. Old Girls wishing to play lacrosse against the school on November 30, should contact Mrs Prince via the College. The school production of *Twelfth Night* is at 7.30 pm on December 3, 6 and 7, and the Carol Service is at 3.30 pm on December 8, in St Mary's Church, Hitchin.

St David's School for Girls, Ashford, Middlesex. Autumn term begins on September 11 and ends on December 18. Vth Form Commencement with Halfday Boys' School enters its sixth year.

Congratulations to Mrs Margaret Langley, appointed Deputy Headmistress, and Deborah Short, Head Girl. Speech Day will be on Thursday, November 21, with guest speaker Mr John Stevens, MEP.

St Dunstan's College. Michaelmas Term began on September 13, and ends on December 13, except being from October 19 to 29. T.F. Stone is Head of School and M.C. Allen is Captain of Rugby football.

The guest of honour at Prize Giving, on September 26, is Dr D.J.I. Ingram, CBE, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Kent at Canterbury. The new Biology laboratory will be formally opened by Mr John Maple, MP, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, on October 15.

The Dramatic Society will perform *Billy Budd* on November 28-30. The Chamber Choir will perform Haydn's *Creation* on Saturday, October 19 to Sunday, October 27. Speech Day is on Friday, November 8, and the Carol Service is on Sunday, December 15, both events at St Mary Clement Methodist Church.

Mrs P.A. Harris and family take up residence at the new girls' house, Pentre, and Mr and Mrs W.J. Cooper take over at Malvern senior boys' house. Mr G. Whitmore joins as Head of Games following the retirement of Mr P.T. Lang. Mrs A.E. Weeks becomes Senior Mistress and Mr G. Baines assumes responsibility for the 2nd year. Mr D.J. Hunt has been appointed Head of Modern Languages and Mr K.W. Powers assumes responsibility for computer studies on the retirement of Mr C.A. Monks. Mrs J. Grassy has been appointed Head of the new Preparatory Department at Trelliske School.

Westworth Milton Mount, Somerset. Autumn Term begins on September 4. The Head Girl is Fiona Bailey. Miss Pamela Hayes has joined the Staff as Head of the newly opened Technology Department. Miss E. Kaye has retired from the

played on October 19 and the annual dinner will be held at Victory Services Club on November 29. Nicholas Moore, a chorister, and the Old Chorists' Association dinner will be held at the school on September 21.

The Clergy Orphan Corporation Foundation Service will be held at Canterbury Cathedral on September 27. The preacher will be the Bishop of Dover, former pupils who wish to attend are welcome to contact the headmaster's secretary. The school concert on November 21 will include Joseph Jongen's *Mass* and the school musical *The Boyfriend* will be performed on November 28-30. The carol service is on December 10.

## Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Sir John Soane, architect, Goring-on-Thames, 1753; Deacon-in-Charge, Swallowston (Shropshire), 1771; Sir John Seeley, historian, London, 1834; Robert Koldewey, architect, Blankenburg am Harz, Germany, 1855; Cyril Connolly, critic, Coventry, 1903.

DEATHS: Edward Pococke, orientalist, Oxford, 1691; Mary Wollstonecraft Godwin, pioneer for the rights of women, London, 1797; Ugo Foscolo, poet, Tumbano Green, Middlesex, 1827; Wilfrid Scawen Blunt, traveller, poet and politician, Southwater, Sussex, 1922; Balthazar Vorster, prime minister of South Africa 1966-78; president 1978-79, 1983.

Vidkun Quisling, Nazi collaborator and minister president during the occupation of Norway, was sentenced to death 1945.

Governing Body and Miss M. Winfield, (Headmistress of Bath High School) has joined the Board. An Open Day will be held at the School on Wednesday, October 9, and Half-term will be from Friday, October 25 to Sunday, November 3. Performances of the School Play will be held on November 14 to 16. The School will conduct the Advent Service at Richmond Hill URC on Sunday, December 1. Term ends on Thursday, December 12.

Woodhouse Grove School. Term begins today at Woodhouse Grove School under the Headmastership of Mr David W. Welsh, MA.

## Church news

Clergy appointments. The Rev James K. Moore, Vicar, Bilham, to be Vicar, St Oswald's, Millhouses (Sheffield). The Rev Paul P. Ockford, Vicar, Sherburn and West and East Heslerton, to be Vicar, Yeadon (York); to be Rector, Barncliffe, Morebath, Claythanger and Perton (Essex).

The Rev Ian Pearson, NSM, Diocese of St Albans and archivist at the Church of England Archives Centre to be Curate, St Mary and All Saints, Chesterfield (Derby). The Rev Geoffrey Pengelly, Assistant Curate, Redruth with Lanner and Treleigh to be Priest-in-charge of North Petherwin, Egloskerry, Tremaer and Tremaer (Truro).

The Rev Susan K. Proctor, Parish Deacon, St Mary's, Beighton; to be Parish Deacon-in-Charge, Swallowston (Sheffield). The Rev Canon John M. Saunders, Chaplain, Christ Church, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; to be Priest-in-charge, Horsmonden (Kent). The Rev Steven Smith, Assistant Curate, St Mary, Prescott; to be Vicar, St John, Hindley Green (Liverpool).

## MARGARET 'PEGGY' RAMSAY

Margaret 'Peggy' Ramsay, play agent, died in London on September 4 aged 83. She was born in Sydney on May 28, 1908.

THE PUBLIC achievements of the post-war English theatre rest to a large extent on a handful of people, including George Devine and Joan Littlewood, whose particular genius was to release the talent of others. Among them, none exercised a greater influence than Margaret Ramsay, the agent, who worked from the heart of London's West End.

Virtually unknown outside the profession until Vanessa Redgrave played her in the film, *Prick Up Your Ears*, she was the discoverer, encourager, defender, and most brutal critic of two generations of English playwrights. Subtract the names of her clients from Joe Orton and David Mercer in the Sixties through to Willy Russell and David Hare, and the English playwrighting renaissance would be almost a blank.

At every point, her career contradicted the stereotyped idea of theatrical agents as trend-following parasites encouraging artists to repeat past successes so as to realise their ten per cent. Peggy (as she was known to everyone) disdained money, though she gave it away in fistfuls to needy newcomers (such as E. A. Whithead) whose talent she believed in. The agency flourished, though that was not evident from its shabby premises off St Martin's Lane.

She also disdained past success. Nothing aroused her to more fury and contempt than the sight of a good writer lazily succumbing to market forces. Her commercial power derived partly from the fact that she was indifferent to commercial values; and partly from her unrivalled sensitivity to the qualities of untested work. She seldom appeared at first nights, or talked about her private life. Not much was known about that apart from the fact that she lived in Brighton with her friend, Bill Roderick, and that she had once been an opera singer. But after the Orton film she finally unbent towards interviewers and it emerged that she was born Margaret Venetker, the daughter of a British army doctor, and divided her childhood between a Sydney suburb and a South African ostrich farm. After a short-lived undergraduate marriage to her psychology professor, she took the stage - comic opera in London, followed by a spell of provincial acting during the war. While working for Hugh Hunt at the Bristol Old Vic she discovered her talent as a reader of manuscripts: her recommendations repeatedly blossomed into London hits, and - with a year's subsidy from a group of friends - she set up her own business.

By the mid-Fifties, the new wave dramatists were making their breakthrough at the Royal Court. Ramsay's role, in association with the enlightened impresario Michael Codron, was to extend the new writing revival from minority

houses into the West End. She was not a cosy personality. Impulsively generous to her staff, she was also known to stalk over St Martin's Lane at luncheon and forcibly remove them from the Salisbury Arms. She was also wary of her clients' wives, seeing family life as an enemy of first class work. Nor was she always right about their plays: she vehemently disapproved of Peter Nichols' *A Day in the Death of Joe Egg*, which she mistook as a piece of autobiographical self-indulgence. It was an irrelevance to her that anyone's feelings might be bruised as she assumed that for her writers as for herself, all that counted was the quality of their work. She could be tenderly protective as well as brutal, but her loyalty was to their talent not to themselves. Sometimes they groaned under the relationship. David Mercer was apt to complain that Peggy divided writers between the elite of dark, imaginative explorers, and the lesser breed who made money; and that she perversely refused to place him in the second category. Orton, of course, did become a money-spinner; whereupon Ramsay, who had championed him as an unknown promptly leapt off the bandwagon and subsequently re-

ferred to him as merely "one of our writers". To the end of her life, still delivering crushingly accurate analyses of scripts which immediately vanished from her memory, she was on the track of the now.

In defence of her writers, Ramsay would sometimes take issue with their reviewers. Her letters, inscribed "self-typed" and smothered in corrections and afterthoughts, swung between abusive denunciations of the reviewer's arguments and breezy good wishes. She wrote she spoke. After the dismissal of an early David Hare piece she wrote: "Well, it will soon be an all-revival West End, and critics will be reassessing the judgements of Hazlitt and Agate."



MR JUSTICE LINCOLN  
Michael Rabinowitz writes

IN YOUR very appropriate obituary of Sir Anthony Lincoln (August 14) it is stated that, "He wrote a book called, *Wicked, Wicked, Libels*". Tony Lincoln in fact contributed just one short article to this anthology on libel, which I edited for Routledge and Keegan Paul.

## Church news

The Rev G. Roger Walker, Vicar, St Andrew, Hove; to be Vicar, Cophore (Chichester). The Rev David J. Wardrop, Rector, Clare with Posingfield, Cavendish, Stoke by Clare with Wincey, St Edmundsbury and Ipswich; to be Chaplain, Bordeaux (Europe).

The Rev Bryan West, Honorary Curate, Holy Family, Gravesend and with Ibel; to be Curate, St George, Gravesend (Kent). The Rev Martin Weymouth, Chaplain, St Peter's Collegiate School, Wolverhampton and non-stipendiary Minister, St James, Wolverhampton; to be non-stipendiary Minister, St James and St Elizabeth, Bickershaw, St John Abigan and in the Deanery of Wigan East (Liverpool).

The Rev Prebendary John A. Widdas, Vicar, Barnworth St Edith; to be also Rural Dean of Tamworth (Leicestershire). The Rev Peter T. Wood, Vicar, St Peter w St Owen and St James, Hereford, Rural Dean of Hereford City and Chaplain to the Police and Probation Service; to be also Prebendary of Hereford Cathedral (Hereford). The Rev David W. Yabcombe, Team Vicar, Central Rector, Cleasdale with Freethy (Leicestershire).

Other appointments. Dr Jeffrey West to be Secretary to the Advisory Board for Redundant Churches, from October 29.

Church in Wales. Diocese of Llandaff. The Rev Simon John Morgan, Curate, Celligear, to be appointed to the parish of Dowlaia.

The Rev Gerald Robert Steele to resign as Rector of Cadostro, to be Rector of St. Mary's, Foulston, Wigan (Liverpool). The Rev Gwyn Humphreys, Curate, to be Vicar of Cwmanan, on October 20.

Diocese of Bangor. The Rev John Nigel Gifford, Curate in the rectorial benefice of Llanbellig (Caernarfon), to be Rector of Ffestiniog with Blaenau Ffestiniog.





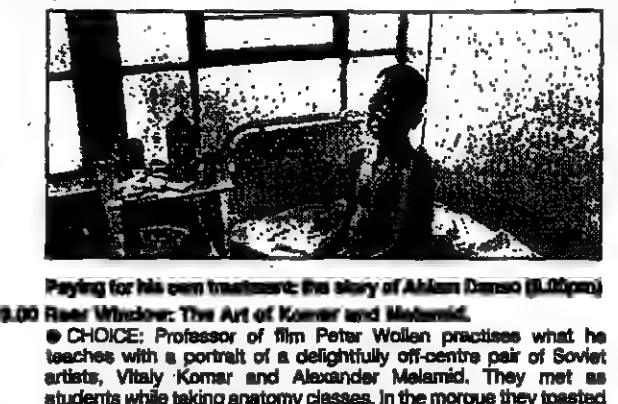






C

**0.00 The Channel 4 Daily**  
**0.25 Caribbean Experience.** The second of two films highlighting a Latin American music festival held in Cuba in 1981  
**0.30 CrossTalk.** Young people's discussion series (r)  
**1.00 Froggie Earle:** Jungle Pharmacy. How some of today's live-saving drugs were developed from those used by jungle-dwelling 'primitives' (r)  
**2.30 Kennet and Avon.** The third log of Timothy West and Prunella Scales's four-part cruise along the Kennet and Avon canal  
**3.30 Salford 6.60** **1.00** **James Street** (r)  
**2.00 Sufism: The Heart of Islam.** The second of three films on Sufism  
**2.30 Film:** *Oscar Wilde (1982, b/w)*. Robert Morley takes the title role in a strongly acted drama tracing the rise and fall of the Irish playwright and wit. With Phyllis Calvert, John Neville, John Richardson and Dennis Price. Directed by Gregory Ratoff  
**4.30** **Way to the Top.** Dutch puppet animation **4.30 Countdown** (r)  
**0.00 Owl TV.** Children's wildlife series presented by Michaela Strachan. Today's edition includes a visit to Emmen zoo in The Netherlands and to a parrot-breeding centre in Cambridge (Teletext)  
**5.30** **Clay for Clay.** Series investigating the evolution of class distinction in Britain (r). (Teletext)  
**6.00 My Two Dads.** The first of a re-run for the dire American comedy  
**6.30 Happy Days.** Enduring American teenage comedy  
**7.00 Channel 4 News** with Jon Snow and Zeinab Badawi. (Teletext)  
**Weather**  
**8.00** **Commas**  
**8.30** **Stories from an African Hospital.**  
**9.00** **Dr Ockler: What with Hospital Watch, Jimmy's and Casualty,** viewers may feel they have had enough of hospital programmes. This six-part series offers a fresh perspective by taking the cameras to Ghana and a teaching hospital in the market town of Kumasi. To an extent it is a familiar tale of waiting lists, overcrowding and lack of resources. But on top of all that Ghana has no health service and most people, however poor, must pay for their treatment. In tonight's episode producer/director Ian Taylor concentrates on Abiam, a boy of about ten (though he claims to be 15) suffering from lack of food and a dangerous kidney condition. He has admitted himself, after selling nuts to pay the bill. With his father dead and his mother gone away this hospital becomes home. Taylor weaves in two other stories, of an 18-year-old brought in after collapsing in the street and an old man having an eye



a corpse in brandy and have continued in similar vein. They

pioneered their Soviet version of pop art in something called the Bulldozer Show, but this was the Brezhnev era and the KGB was not amused. They emigrated to the United States, became hippies and then became young and beautiful selling suits. One of their few customers was their guru, Andy Warhol. Wollen's film interviews the pair in New York and catches up on recent work. Having parodied socialist realism in the Soviet Union they are taking a slightly sceptical view of their adopted country, taking their inspiration from such icons of consumerism as a washing machine running in a field.

**0.45 Re-Play: After the Party.** A select party comes to an abrupt end when an unwelcome guest appears (r)

**0.00 Helsinki Like Gaze (1988)** starring George Peppard and Gayle Hunnicutt. Moving made-for-television drama based on the true story of a Russian ballerina who defected to the west - on a cultural ballet dance, the other a rough working class girl. With Jani Gertz and Martha Plimpton. Directed by Carl Schenkel

**2.00 The Dick Porell Theatre: The Hook (b/w).** American drama series. A top attorney teams up with a former gang leader to convict a drug dealer. Starring Ed Begley, Ray Danton and Robert Long


**2.55am Clark Terry - Big Big Band.** The former Duke Ellington trumpeter and his band in concert. Ends at 1.55

**2.55am** **0.00 Indiana stereo**

[illegible]

**THE OVERLOOKING HORSE**


We were called to rescue two terribly neglected horses from a bleak, remote farm. Both were just skin and bone and one, Lizzie, could not even stand. She was infested with lice, had worms and a deep wound was still oozing pus.



*Lizzie, unable to stand.*

We saved them and tended Lizzie's wound with staff actually sleeping in the stable to see her through the initial nights. After 9 weeks of intensive care, she got up on her own. At last, life seemed worthwhile for her again.

For over 20 years, we have been rescuing and caring for horses, ponies and donkeys but we need your help to keep going.



**PLEASE HELP US WITH  
THESE NOBLE ANIMALS**

Post, Cheque 30/1/98

Please send donations to: —  
**Bransby Home of Rest for Horses, (Dept E1)  
Bransby, Lincoln, LN1 2PH Tel: (0427) 788464.**  
I enclose cheque/postal order for £ \_\_\_\_\_  
Please tick box for our Xmas Card/Gift leaflet ☐

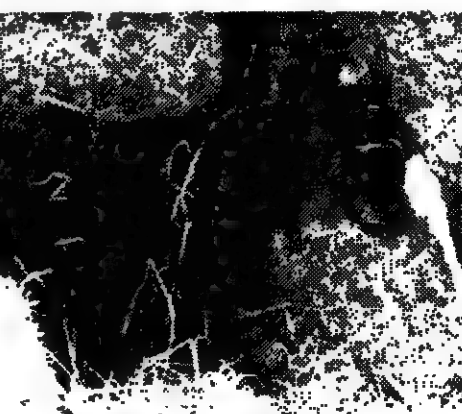
Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Post Code \_\_\_\_\_

**BRITISH HORSES  
ARE STILL SUFFERING**

We were called to rescue two terribly neglected horses from a bleak, remote farm. Both were just skin and bone and one, Lizzie, could not even stand. She was infested with lice, had worms and a deep wound was still oozing pus.



*Lizzie, unable to stand.*

We saved them and tended Lizzie's wound with staff actually sleeping in the stable to see her through the initial nights. After 9 weeks of intensive care, she got up on her own. At last, life seemed worthwhile for her again.

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I enclose cheque/postal order for £ \_\_\_\_\_

Please tick box for our Xmas Card/Gift leaflet ☐

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Post Code \_\_\_\_\_



## Croatia calls up rag-tag reserves

Continued from page 1

Highly armed, quickly marshalled forces and the firepower of a professional army, should the fighting develop into full-scale war does not seem to have penetrated their fervent devotion to the Croatian cause.

Among themselves, the Croatian command complain that President Tudjman has placed too much emphasis on fruitless negotiation and not enough on preparing for war. That has changed over the past week, with even civilians now on an expectant war footing.

The musty labyrinth of tunnels more than a mile in length which stretches beneath the old town has been cleaned and reopened as a shelter in case Zagreb itself should be bombed. Dug during the second world war as an air-raid shelter and last used when American forces bombed the city in 1944, the tunnel could house 4,000 people in the event of attack.

Sand bags are also being delivered in the picturesque, narrow alleyways around the cathedral. The residents are insulating their windows with cardboard.

The man in charge of civil defence is Zvonimir Cervenko, once a colonel in the federal army until he was dismissed and imprisoned for exhibiting unacceptable Croatian nationalism.

He has no qualms about fighting against his old colleagues in what he calls "Serbia's private army". In the past few weeks he has created 144,000 places in air-raid shelters for the city's population of a million. He says he prays nightly that the conflict will not spread to include the bombing of the cities.

"Like all good Croats, I put my faith in the Almighty," he said, "but my warning voice also tells me it is time to get the sandbags in."

Macedonia vote, page 11

**TOMORROW IN THE TIMES**  
Those who have always dreamt of owning a pub should be seeing their bank managers: as breweries are forced by law to sell licensed premises, the prices are becoming more realistic and, as Rodney Hobson reports, there are some good deals on tap

## Absent friends cast no pall over Lib Dems' party

CHRIS HARRIS



Reflective mood: David Owen on the Commons Terrace at the launch yesterday of his autobiography *Time to Declare*. His mischievous sense of timing meant that he was not forgotten

by his former colleagues, but conference sales of the book had totalled seven at midday on the second day. Roy Jenkins's book, set alongside and at the same price, has been selling well

THE mayor of Bournemouth, councillor Lionel Bennett, is a jolly, bonhomie version of Des Wilson. Hearing a welcome yesterday, he told us he was only the second ever Labour mayor there. "My presence here should encourage you to believe that all things are possible." Apparently last time the ruling Tory group elected a Labour mayor was during the war. Word had spread that if the Germans invaded, all civic mayors would be shot.

But now Liberal democrats control the seaside resort, and "the sun," gurgled their president, Charles Kennedy MP, "is shining on our improved opinion poll ratings". Just the tiniest cloud was provided by the absent Dr Owen and his book launch, but delegates were not letting that spoil the fun. "Leaving politics?" said one. "I do hope he means it." And everyone was determined to go to

### Conference sketch

Matthew Parris in Bournemouth

Roy Jenkins's rival book launch that afternoon, though few expected to understand it.

Besides, this was no time for ill will. The aim, said Kennedy, "is to bring the luminosity of truth to bear on our proceedings". Upon what, then, should the luminosity of truth be brought to bear first?

Liberal Democrats chose to begin by discussing the cost of the "free" conference creche. £4,000 for some 20 kids meant about £200 per child. From the chair, Sir William Goodhart considered it would be wrong for parents to contribute. Everyone clapped.

After that, it was hard to think of anything quite as important. But a lady in pink power-padded shoulders called for a greater role for women in public life, and to deplore Mrs Thatcher, etc, which occupied a merry hour. Then the real debate began.

Flying, arrow-like, to the heart of electoral concern, the Liberal Democrats debated slavery. Chris Wainwright led the discussion.

Every conference finds Mr Wainwright somewhat enlarged from the year before. We watch, now, as he did his topic what his digestive processes have done to him. Slavery grew, however, before our eyes. There were "over two hundred million slaves worldwide" and "10 to 20 million" slaves in



Making up: Shirley Williams preparing to be late to board the "train of success"



Taking note: Roy Jenkins, right, giving Paddy Ashdown the benefit of his experience

India, Brazil was full of slaves. Dominica was positively teeming with them. There were "200,000" slaves in Portugal...

...and - you guessed? But we trail badly in the league of slave ownership. There are only a measly "3,000" slaves in Britain.

The penny dropped. He did not mean slavery, but "labour under duress". As the rattle of manacles in Beethoven receded, disappointment grew. "Some people" gasped Wainwright, "are forced to work, to pay off debts." An *Independent* journalist beside me gave a sympathetic sigh.

Mr Wainwright began outlining legislative proposals for "slave-free labelling" by an incoming liberal government. But I had to leave.

believing this to be the hour when (according to the Daily Synopsist) supplied to the press "the Rt Hon Shirley Williams" would "board the train of success" at the East Cliff promenade. I was mistaken: the train did not leave until after lunch. With Mrs Williams's luck, though, she was still late.

What next? Should I save myself for Jane Ashdown, Matthew Taylor and a two-meals high rabbit, climbing into a "human sized battery cage" together? We know who of the trio is married to Paddy Ashdown, but which is the liberal education spokesman - Taylor, or the rabbit?

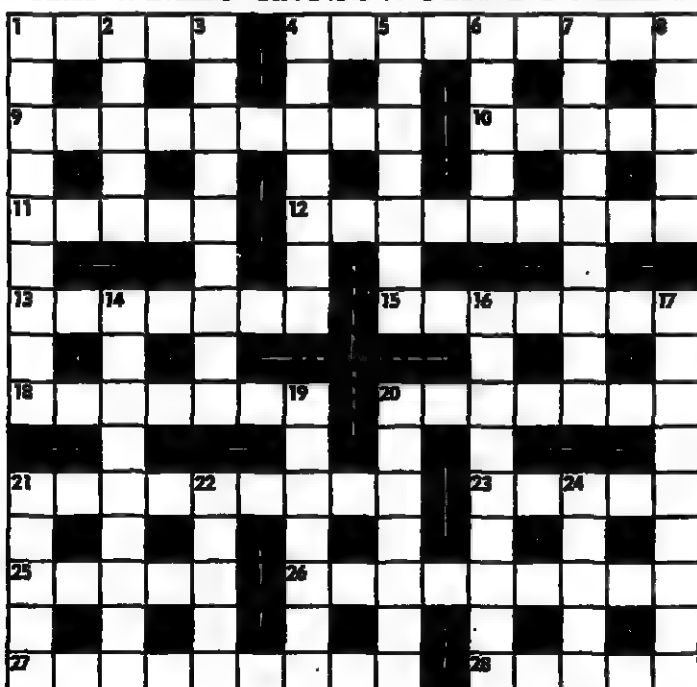
I opted for a fringe meeting sponsored by the British Association for Shooting

and Conservation, entitled "Shooting - Friend of the Countryside". Here I observed the closest the Liberal Democrats come to blood sports. The quarry - a Scottish soldier flanked by two young men in suits, one with broad shoulders and the other narrow, but both with eyes rather close together - were timely humiliated, baited and poked at for an hour. When one of them whispered something about "stomach snoring", it was too much for a delegate.

"I spent many years shooting myself," he protested. From 100 Liberal Democrats came a useful chuckle. They knew just what he meant.

Conference reports, page 8

## THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,707



### ACROSS

- 1 Continental vessel rounding West Indies, heading south (5).
- 4 Urban dwellers know lofts can be converted (9).
- 9 One about average is wearing nothing unique (9).
- 10 Deserved to be taken to task (5).
- 11 Unfeeling Republican gets himself in a mess (5).
- 12 Detectives in Bedale, perhaps, with capacity for being determined (9).
- 13 Dark-complexioned, but self-conscious about skin abnormality (7).
- 15 The Crosby brothers, dancing up and down (7).
- 18 Brother or sister hang about in the same passage (7).
- 20 Fia supplied lost torn clothing is included (7).
- 21 "The Case of the Cabinet Minister" (9).

Solution to Puzzle No 18,706

GASCADE CAPTAIN  
WEST INDIES  
LOFTS  
UNIQUE  
TAKEN  
DETERMINED  
COMPLEXIONED  
CROSBY  
PASSAGE  
FIA  
CASE OF THE CABINET MINISTER

### DOWN

- 23 A registered nurse thus caught in crime (5).
- 25 Animal's cramped horn - one or two (5).
- 26 Some say precipitate action may cause a storm (9).
- 27 On horseback, King Edward beat a retreat (9).
- 28 Most suitable pen, by the sound of it (5).
- 1 Extremely sketchy directions about the people present in unions (9).
- 2 Wrongdoer executed or shot (5).
- 3 Strung-out sort of junction? (9).
- 4 Time to compose duet, say (7).
- 5 Mowgli's brother once urged to do his best? (4-3).
- 6 Scrap dropped when crossing river (5).
- 7 Ale out east - it's brewed for a Russian liberal (9).
- 8 Sort of anchor disliked generally, though not entirely (5).
- 14 Fruit bun I agree to cook (9).
- 16 Cheat at game held by transport officer? (9).
- 17 Inexperienced band, keeps the city at bay (5-4).
- 19 Noble knight upholding a king in tribal territory (7).
- 20 Discipline - that is to say nothing to press (7).
- 21 Did he honeymoon with Helen here? (5).
- 22 Bloomers get one Democrat banished from state (5).
- 24 Archbishop understands society jargon (5).

Concise crossword page 19

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?  
By Philip Howard

### THAIRM

a. Scotch last

b. An irregular soldier

c. An irregular

SUBTRIST

a. Pretty and

b. A provisional rendezvous

c. An under-vegar

ROCAMBOLE

a. Tango Rock 'n' Roll

b. Meat and vegetable casserole

c. A plant like garlic

DESMAN

a. A surety for bail

b. The executioner

c. An aquatic insecticide

Answers on page 20

For the latest AA traffic and road works information, 24 hours a day, dial 0836 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE	London & NW	London & E	London & S
C. London (within N & S Circles).....	731		
M-ways/roads M4-M1.....	732		
M-ways/roads M1-Dartford T.....	733		
M-ways/roads Dartford T-M25.....	734		
M25 London Orbital only.....	735		
National			
National motorways.....	737		
West Country.....	738		
Wales.....	739		
Midlands.....	740		
East Anglia.....	741		
North-west England.....	742		
North-east England.....	743		
South.....	744		
Northern Ireland.....	745		

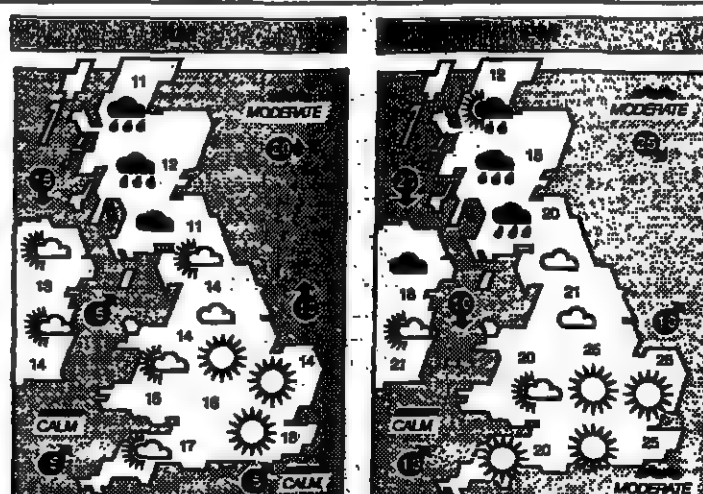
AA Roadwatch is charged at 38p per minute (cheap rate) and 45p per minute at all other times.

Patchy fog will clear by mid-morning over England and Wales, followed by sunny periods over central and southern areas, with a chance of a light shower. Northern England will be cloudy, possibly with patchy rain by evening. Northern Scotland will see sunny periods and showers. Southern Scotland and Northern Ireland will be bright before cloud and patchy rain. Outlook: mainly dry with sunny periods. Colder.

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Notes
Alford	27	11	100	cloudy
Amble	27	11	100	cloudy
Amble	27	11	100	cloudy
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Amble	27	11	100	cloudy
Amble	27	11	100	cloudy

\* denotes figures are latest available

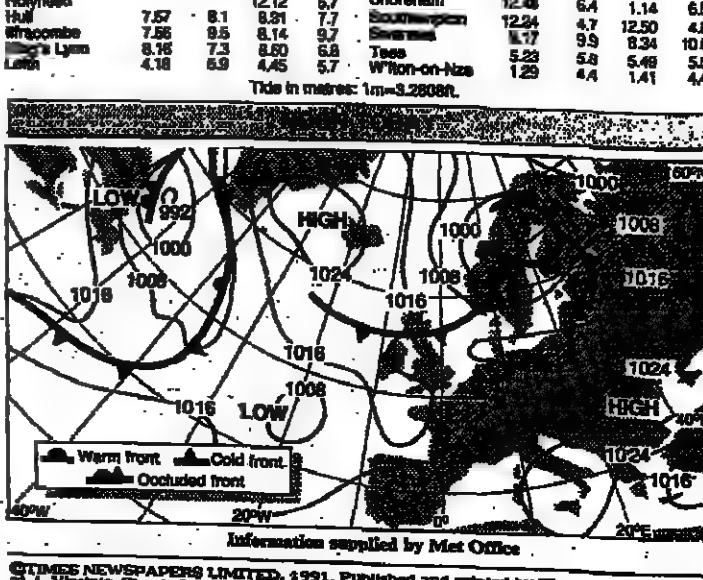
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Amble	27	11	100	cloudy
Amble	27	11	100	cloudy
Amble	27	11	100	cloudy



Temperatures at midday yesterday: C, cloud; F, rain; S, sun.  
London: 17.0 to 21.0  
Edinburgh: 11.0 to 15.0  
Manchester: 11.0 to 15.0  
Cardiff: 11.0 to 15.0  
Glasgow: 11.0 to 15.0

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Notes
Amble	27	11	100	cloudy
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Amble	27	11	100	cloudy

\* denotes figures are latest available



Information supplied by Met Office

SIB backs down on plans to scrap rule

Vita pay cut

Wilson

Wilson

Wilson

Wilson

Wilson

Wilson

Wilson

Wilson

Wilson

Wilson



TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 10 1991

- BUSINESS AND FINANCE 23-25, 28-30
- FOCUS: PHARMACY 26, 27
- LAW TIMES 31, 33
- LAW REPORT 35
- SPORT 37-40

## SIB backs down on plans to scrap rule

PRESSURE from consumer groups and independent intermediaries has forced the Securities and Investments Board to back down on its plan to drop the polarisation rule, which forces banks, building societies and intermediaries to sell one company's products or advise on many.

In a discussion paper on polarisation, published as part of the SIB's review of retail regulation, the board said it would not permit "multi-tying", where intermediaries could opt to tie with several companies as an alternative to being independent or being tied to a single company.

Sir David Walker, chairman of the SIB, said there was concern that, with multi-tying, investors would not understand what their advisers were authorised to sell.

Comment, page 25

## Vita payout up

British Vita, the polymer, foams and fibres group, suffered an 11 per cent fall in interim pre-tax profits to £24.2 million for the six months to end-June, but the interim dividend is up 4.5 per cent to 3.45p. *Times*, page 25

## Wilson falls

Wilson (Connolly), the house-builder, sold 1,300 houses in the six months to end-June, a 20 per cent rise on the first half of 1990. While pre-tax profits fell 28.5 per cent to £13.8 million, the interim dividend is increased to 1.27p (1.21p). *Times*, page 25

## Suter suffers

Suter, the conglomerate, saw pre-tax profits fall 46 per cent to £9.2 million in the six months to end-June. *Times*, page 25

## THE POUND

US dollar 1.7275 (+0.0340)  
German mark 2.9411 (-0.0014)  
Exchange index 91.5 (+0.5)  
Bank of England official close (4pm)

## STOCK MARKETS

FT 30 share 2088.6 (-5.0)  
FT-SE 100 2653.2 (-14.2)  
New York Dow Jones 3004.70 (-6.93)  
Tokyo Nikkei Ave 22573.98 (-118.62)

## MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:  
Greene King 481p (+14p)  
Northern Foods 533p (+4p)  
MacLaren 195p (+4p)  
Riced Int 488p (+10p)  
Scott TV 269p (+11p)  
Sebe 546p (+12p)  
Sitel 133p (+10p)  
Sleight Estates 262p (+9p)  
Schroders 912p (+37p)  
Provident 487p (+9p)  
Tynet & Britten 485p (+15p)  
FALLS:  
News Corp 470p (-25p)  
Haynes Publishing 110p (-20p)  
RMC Group 67p (-5p)  
Laporte 579p (-11p)  
Linnard 89p (-8p)  
British Aerospace 518p (-37p)  
SG Warburg 507p (-9p)  
Routledge 694p (-11p)  
Rockhill & Colman 695p (-15p)  
Closing Prices...Page 29

## INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base 10 1/4%  
3 month interbank 10 1/4-10 1/2%  
3 month eligible bills 9 1/4-9 1/2%  
US Prime Rate 8 1/4%  
Federal Funds 5 1/4%  
3 month Treasury Bills 5.29-5.27%  
30 year bonds 10 1/4-10 1/2%

## CURRENCIES

London: New York, \$1 7280  
C \$1 7280  
C DM 9358  
C Sfr 2 5787  
C FF 10 0065  
C Yen 233 27  
C INR 91 7  
C CU 10 897 67  
C FCU 1 434 376  
C SD 1 252 241  
London: New York, \$1 7280  
C \$1 7280  
C DM 9358  
C Sfr 2 5787  
C FF 10 0065  
C Yen 233 27  
C INR 91 7  
C CU 10 897 67  
C FCU 1 434 376  
C SD 1 252 241

## GOLD

London Fixing:  
AM \$350 10 pm \$350 55  
close \$351 90 \$352 40 (\$203 80-304 30)  
New York:  
Comex \$352 65 \$353 15

## RETAIL PRICES

RPI 133.8 July (1987-100)  
Denotes midday trading price

## NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Sep) \$19.80 bbl (\$20.05)

# Revised sales figures boost recovery trend

By COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

AN UPWARD revision of the official retail sales figure for July, combined with a pickup in borrowing, has boosted the credibility of the government's view that consumers are leading the economy out of recession.

John Major, speaking in Aberdeen, said the government had set the economy "back on course" and pledged a return to growth by the end of this year.

Despite last week's half-point cut in base rates to 10.5 per cent, money market dealers, in the absence of Bank of England resistance, almost fully discounted a further half-point reduction. The key three

month interbank rate closed 1/8 softer at 10 1/8 per cent.

Although the pound fell nearly three quarters of a penny to DM2.9368 at the 1700 close, hopes of lower American interest rates allowed it to rise nearly 3/8 cents against the dollar to \$1.7275 and close 0.5 higher at \$1.75 on its trade-weighted index.

The retail sales index rose 0.7 per cent in July, after seasonal adjustment, compared with the 0.3 per cent increase in the provisional figures, after a 1.5 per cent gain in June.

Government figures on consumer credit revealed a sharp rise in lending by the banks and financial institutions. The net increase in credit ad-

vanced to consumers was £187 million in July, up from £22 million in June.

A Treasury spokesman, welcoming the rising retail sales, said: "It may well be the consumer-led recovery predicted in the Budget."

Keith Storch, chief economist at James Capel, saw the sales data confirming a recovery in spending. Given the interest rate cut last week, he expects consumer confidence to revive further.

Doubts persist, however, with Neil MacKinnon, chief economist at Yamaichi International, pointing out that sales levels remain low. Nominal incomes were still being suppressed and the debt-to-income ratio remained high, putting an effective lid on any consumer recovery. He said: "It would be premature to see this as a recovery."

James May, director general of the Retail Consortium, said the improved sales trend remained "fairly tentative" and that it would "take a long time before we can talk of a consumer-led recovery".

Research by Infolink, the credit information organisation, shows that consumers are willing to make small financial commitments, but still shy away from large financial burdens, such as houses or cars.

Simon Briscoe, economist at Midland Montagu, saw the pick-up in sales in June and July reflecting continuous price-cutting by retailers.

The July rise in the volume sales index to 120.8 gave a year-on-year fall of 0.5 per cent. In the latest three months, sales were 1.3 per cent down on the same period last year. In value terms, July was 6 per cent up on July last year.

New credit advanced to consumers in July was £4.30 billion, after seasonal adjustment, up from £3.74 billion in June. Bank card credit jumped to £2.72 billion from £2.35 billion.

In the latest three months, credit card borrowing has surged ahead by 8 per cent, while overall new consumer credit has risen just 3 per cent.

Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, told government, industry and trade union officials that the worst is over for east Germany, and that its economy is starting to recover. He called for greater private and public sector effort to maintain the momentum.

Official figures showed consumer prices in west Germany were unchanged between July and August, with annual inflation at 4.1 per cent.

## BW banks look at Lonrho plan

By MATTHEW BOND AND ANGELA MACKAY

STANDARD Chartered, which heads Brent Walker's main syndicate of banks, is to canvass the other 46 on their views of Lonrho's last-ditch, alternative proposal to rescue Brent Walker, the leisure group.

The bank says the process will take a few days, but it remains confident that the majority of the banks still support the original refinancing proposals.

Holders of Brent Walker's £102 million convertible bond issue, including Lonrho, met at the City offices of Hambros Bank yesterday to discuss their options. The bondholders, who also include Michael Smurfit, the Irish businessman, and Hambros Bank, were not expected to approve Brent Walker's own proposals.

A number of bondholders are known to favour the Lonrho scheme and could threaten to place Brent Walker in receivership to persuade others of its merits. The same threat may be used to improve in Brent Walker's terms.

That Standard Chartered is canvassing the syndicate's view on the Lonrho proposal contradicts its confident rejection over the weekend by the Brent Walker board. On Sunday Brent Walker said it had been informed that the Lonrho idea had been rejected "out of hand" by the banks.

The Lonrho proposal involves swapping £1 billion of Brent Walker's £1.3 billion into a new class of Lonrho preference share. Although Lonrho believes this could be worth 50-55p in the pound to Brent Walker's bank creditors, the banks are concerned that the offer is conditional on Lonrho carrying out its own due diligence on Brent Walker. They fear a revised Lonrho offer could be below the 35p in the pound that a receiver might obtain by selling Brent Walker's assets.

They are also concerned that Tiny Rowland, Lonrho's chairman, is known to be friendly with George Walker, Brent Walker's ousted founder and chief executive.

Brent Walker was yesterday served with the first writs, issued on behalf of the Walker family, who are claiming £20 million compensation from the company.



Rowland: rescue bid

## Insurers warn on premiums

By SARA MCCONNELL

CLAIMS for subsidence and theft have reached record levels, according to the Association of British Insurers (ABI), which warns policyholders that premiums and excesses will have to rise unless security and fire prevention are tightened.

Subsidence claims more than doubled in the first six months of the year to £277 million, up from £134 million in the same period of last year. Domestic and commercial theft claims leapt by 51.3

per cent, reaching a total of £453 million.

The value of domestic theft claims rose by 51.7 per cent to £289 million and the number of claims was up by a quarter. The average payout on domestic theft claims also rose sharply, from around £750 to almost £1,000. The number of commercial theft claims was up by 23 per cent and the average payout rose from £975 to £1,200.

Mike Jones, ABI chief executive, gave warning that premiums would have to rise and higher excesses be im-

posed unless more attention was paid to security and burglary prevention. "This level of claims is horrible and unacceptable," he said. "Insurance companies paid out £1.2 billion in theft, fire and subsidence claims alone in the first six months of the year. Many claims could be avoided if crime and fire protection were taken seriously. Contents insurance premiums for both commercial and domestic premises have risen by up to 20 per cent since January and more rises are likely before the end of the year."

## Midnight sale at Babcock Prebon

By NEIL BENNETT

BANKING CORRESPONDENT

SHAREHOLDERS in Babcock Prebon, the money broker and leasing group, have angrily denounced the company's speedy receivership over the weekend, which has cost creditors millions of pounds but left the operating companies free from previous financial commitments and in the hands of the existing management.

Babcock Prebon asked its bankers to appoint receivers at midnight on Friday after its board decided it could no longer service its £50 million debt and meet an £8 million loan repayment this month.

By early Sunday morning all the main operating companies had been sold to existing management. Yesterday Babcock & Brown, the lease arranger, and Babcock Fulton Prebon, the money broker, opened for business as usual, with few of their customers aware of the

weekend activity. The receivership at Babcock, formerly York Trust, is one of the least unexpected of the past year. The company has struggled under its debts since the start of the year, and only kept afloat by cash injections from its banks, led by Samuel Montagu. In August Babcock warned shareholders it had breached lending covenants and was negotiating its financial position.

The buyout has freed Babcock from its debt burden and other financial commitments, including a £2 million annual rent bill on empty properties in the City which it failed to sublet. The management, led by Arthur Hughes, the chief executive, now own a business with strong underlying profitability.

The receivership and buyout, however, has not met with approval among holders of the group's ordinary and preference shares, who have almost certainly lost their entire investment. "This is the sort of deal that gives

receivers a bad name," said Richard Furlong, an analyst from Credit Lyonnais, the broker. He said he knew other companies wanted to bid for the businesses, but were given no chance.

There were angry exchanges in the offices of Babcock Prebon at news of the receivership, since 48.5 per cent of the shares were held by directors and staff. Patrick Keenan, Babcock's corporate strategist, said the group's "sorry history" had left the board with no alternative to the receivership, after plans for a rights issue fell through. He refused to reveal the price paid by the management but was confident it was correct.

Ian Bond, the receiver from Cork Gulls, said he had decided on Saturday that Babcock's businesses needed to be sold immediately to preserve their value. "These are people businesses and would have been worth virtually nothing if we had waited. It was impossible to market them in the normal way."

## Analysts expect call for up to £829m



Strapped for cash: Sir Roland expects profits well below weekend press forecasts

## BAe slips 37p after profits warning

By ROSS TIEMAN

INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

ALMOST £100 million was wiped off the stock market value of British Aerospace, after the group gave a warning that profits were unlikely to match market expectations.

Despite the warning, the company made no effort to rebut speculation that it will unveil a rights issue alongside its half-year profits tomorrow.

Analysts said the company had apparently been compelled to correct profit expectations to prepare the ground for the rights issue. Predictions of BAE's pre-tax profit for the year to end-December had ranged from £295 million to £350 million.

BAe said yesterday that its own expectations for full-year profits "are well below the numbers mentioned in the weekend press". Shares in BAE slipped 37p to 518p.

Hoare Govett, BAE's broker, is said to have started taking soundings prior to underwriting a rights issue at the weekend. Early reports suggested a one-for-three issue at 500p, which would have raised £430 million. However, in the wake of the share price plunge, brokers said the company could be looking for up to £829 million through a five-for-seven cash call.

The failure of Professor Sir Roland Smith, BAE's chairman, to provide more detail was criticised by Michael Blogg of James Capel, the broker. "Investors must be wondering what is going on and will be hoping for a much greater degree of comfort from the interim results," he said.

There is no doubt BAE needs extra cash. Gearing is on course to exceed 50 per cent by year-end, far above the 40 per cent ceiling the company regards as comfortable. Up to £2 billion of advances from the Saudi government for equipment to be supplied under the Al Yamamah defence programme are being consumed as deliveries accelerate.

Rover, the carmaker, has slipped into loss, and the order intake for BAE's civil aircraft has slowed. BAE's property arm, Arlington Securities, may also be suffering an outflow of funds.

## Hurd sees a window of opportunity for BCCI

By OUR BUSINESS STAFF

THE government will not stand in the way of an attempt to rescue the collapsed Bank of Credit and Commerce International, according to Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary.

Mr Hurd told a delegation of BCCI campaigners, led by Keith Vaz, the Labour MP for Leicester East, that there is now a window of opportunity for a rescue of the bank, and that the government would support any plan approved by the Bank of England.

Mr Hurd also said he is planning to meet the foreign minister of the United Arab Emirates, in New York, this month, to minimise any damage to relations between the countries caused by BCCI's closure on July 5. Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan al-Nahyan, the UAE's president and the ruler of Abu Dhabi, is BCCI's main shareholder, and was angered by the Bank of England's decision to close BCCI without consulting his officials.

Mr Hurd's statements are the strongest backing the government has given so far to attempts to rescue BCCI. While Mr Hurd said the government could not intervene in any rescue negotiations, he said both the prime minister and the chancellor are being kept informed.

Mr Vaz, who has repeatedly called for a rescue of the bank to minimise the losses suffered by its 1.1 million depositors worldwide, said afterwards he felt "very positive and very pleased" about the meeting.

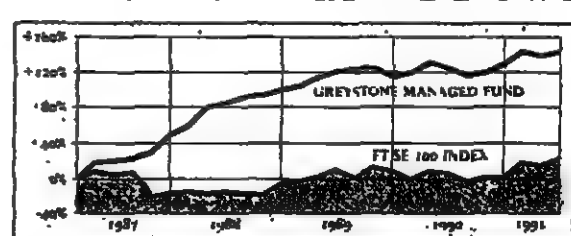
In July, the High Court delayed the liquidation of BCCI to allow Brian Smouha,

the bank's administrator from Touche Ross, the accountant, time to negotiate a restructuring with the authorities in Abu Dhabi.

In Abu Dhabi, senior executives of BCCI are still being held by police. The recently-appointed chief executive, and Swaleh Naqvi, his foreman.

Most of the BCCI senior executives in the UAE are Pakistani nationals, but British embassy officials say up to a dozen, including Mr Naqvi, are British passport holders. They have been trying to arrange consular access to them.

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## FBI joins enquiry into Salomon bid conduct

From PHILIP ROBINSON in NEW YORK

THE Federal Bureau of Investigation has joined the investigation into possible illegal actions by Salomon Brothers, American government agencies are conducting parallel civil and criminal enquiries into the disgraced Wall Street investment bank.

The US Attorney's office for the Southern District of New York is co-ordinating the criminal side of the investigation.

## Buyouts lift Candover

By OUR BANKING CORRESPONDENT

CANDOVER Investments, the investment trust specialising in management buyouts, has continued to thrive despite the recession. Pre-tax profits rose £100,000 to £2.17 million in the first half of the year.

The trust's net assets resumed their growth, rising to £52 million, or 233p a share, from £48.1 million, or 217p, at the end of last year. Last year, Candover suffered the first decline in assets in its ten-year history. The interim dividend is being raised by 0.5p to 3.5p.

Roger Brooke, the chairman, said profits for the year would be higher than last year.

During the last year, Candover invested in four buyouts, and increased its investment in three other companies. In July, the trust made a book profit of almost £3 million on the flotation of Lowndes Lambert, the insurance broker.

## Joint venture wins £450m gas contracts

NATIONAL Power, the recently privatised power generator company, has confirmed it has awarded contracts worth up to £450 million to Anglo-French engineering group GEC-Alsthon.

The project is for a combined cycle gas turbine (CCGT) power station at Didcot in Oxfordshire. The intention is to build a two module station equivalent to 1,360 megawatts. The first phase is scheduled to come into operation in 1994.

Officials are focusing on possible charges of fraud, mail fraud and conspiracy based on accusations that Salomon filed false and misleading documents with a number of government departments.

Four government agencies are now looking into the affairs of Salomon, which has admitted breaches of the rules that govern trading on the \$2.2 billion US Treasury bond market.

Unconfirmed reports indicate that several government agencies are also examining the bidding practices of another large investment bank, so far unnamed, which, like Salomon, is one of the 39 selected primary dealers.

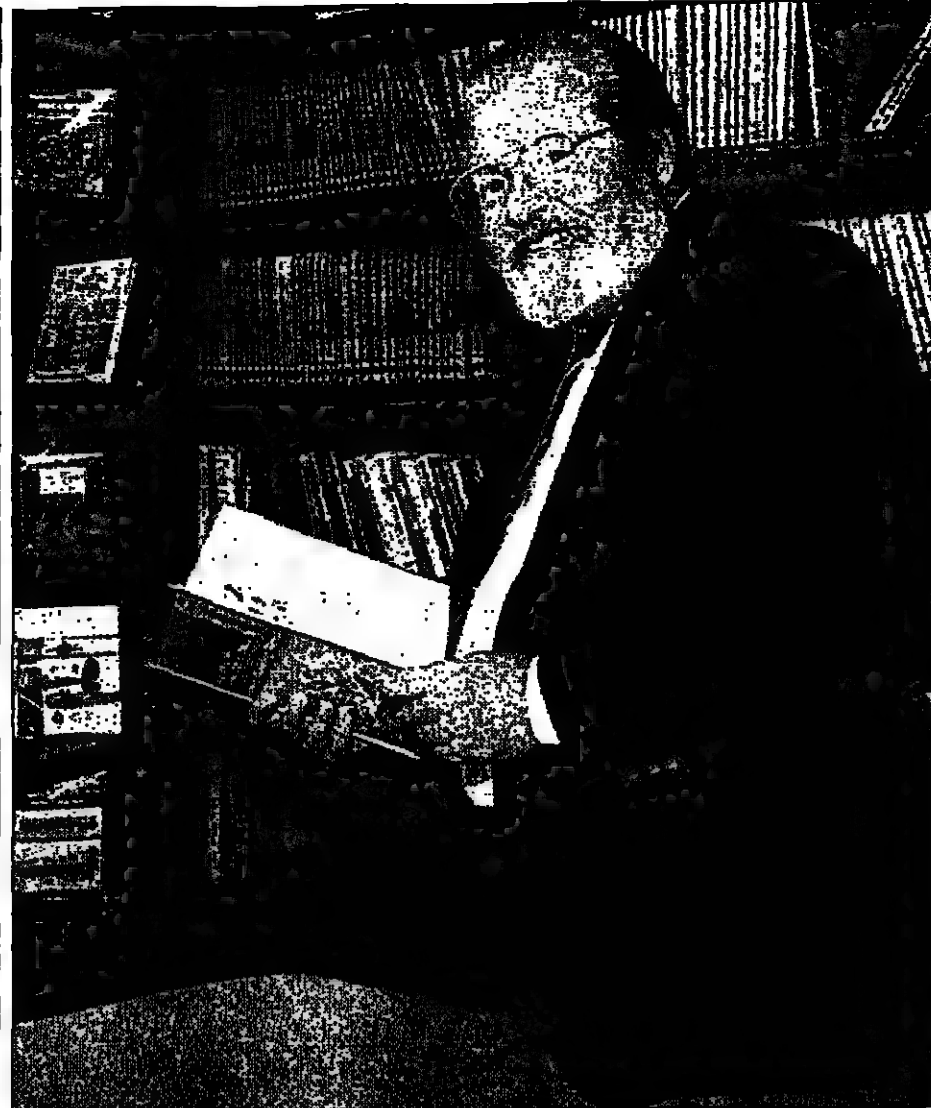
These enquiries relate to the April auction of five-year Treasury notes. The British government, which dismissed Salomon as lead underwriter for the American portion of the British Telecom share sale, has asked for written confirmation from Goldman Sachs, Merrill Lynch and Morgan Stanley, the three other investment banks involved in the sale, that they have not engaged in any activity that might affect their participation in the issue.

US Treasury officials, meanwhile, have been concentrating on two points. The first is whether John Gutfreund, former chairman and chief executive of Salomon, misled officials at a meeting on June 10 when he is alleged to have told them that nothing was wrong with the May auction where his firm cornered 94 per cent of the bonds, two and half times the legal limit.

The second point is what action was taken by Charles Jackson, a senior director of SG Warburg's fund management group, Mercury Asset Management, when he allegedly knew but failed to inform the authorities that Salomon had placed an illegal and unauthorised bid on its behalf in a February action.

Derryck Maughan, Salomon's new chief operating officer, said in a recent interview that "corporate America is sticking with us" and that 24 of its top 27 fixed investment clients continue to do business with the bank.

Salomon Brothers officials are due to appear again tomorrow before a Senate subcommittee. American politicians have already shown themselves anxious to crack down on the way the Treasury bond market is regulated.



New chapter: Haynes says the board has taken steps to boost UK profitability

## Haynes Publishing slumps

SHARES in Haynes Publishing Group, the car and motorcycle manual publisher, fell 20p to 110p after the company cut its final dividend to 1.5p (5.5p), making a reduced total of 2.5p (10p) for the year (Philip Pangalos writes).

The dividend cut followed a dive in full-year profits.

Trading losses in the United Kingdom and exceptional costs resulted in a collapse in the group's pre-tax profits to £26,000 in the year to end-May, compared with £3.1 million last time. Group turnover climbed to £19.2 million (£16.6 million), thanks to an advance in America where turnover increased to £7.43 million (£5.48 million).

United Kingdom operations made a trading loss of £568,000, against a profit of £2.09 million last time, while American operations contributed trading profits of £1.05 million (£1.15 million). Overall interest costs jumped to £525,000 (£193,000). There was an exceptional debit of

£957,000, relating to a combination of increased obsolescence, a revision of useful asset lives and redundancy costs. Earnings per share dived to 0.1p (19.6p).

John Haynes, the chairman, said the board had already taken steps to improve future profitability in Britain.

"I am confident that the company's efforts will enable us to resume our previous growth as business confidence and trading conditions improve," he said.

## East Europe boosts Perkins

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH

THE opening of eastern European markets to western food manufacturers helped to boost pre-tax profits 47 per cent at Perkins Foods in the six months to end-June.

Howard Phillips, the chief executive, said large quantities of French bread, pizzas, grapes and mushrooms were being sold in eastern Germany. Perkins is also selling fruit to Poland and Czechoslovakia.

He said: "Many of these people hadn't seen a banana before, so they are delighted." Perkins does business in eastern Europe through Dutch wholesalers, and debt on these ventures is secured in the Netherlands, reducing risk. Economic stability in the Netherlands, where the group



Phillips confident

has 70 per cent of its business, also helped to push pre-tax profits from £7.1 million to £10.5 million.

Turnover rose 31 per cent to £124 million. Earnings are up 24 per cent to 5.1p a share and the interim dividend is 13 per cent higher at 1.7p. Stripping

out last year's acquisitions, underlying profit growth was 12 per cent.

The frozen and chilled food divisions were among the best performers. New frozen pizzas, filled pancakes and potato lines have been launched.

Perkins has no debt and, if there are no acquisitions in the second half, will end the year with a positive cash balance of £7 million. However, Mr Phillips said the group was still looking for acquisitions.

It is confident of a good performance in the second half. Mr Phillips said a poor apple and pear crop in western Europe, the result of frost damage, would increase demand for the group's kiwi fruit, grapes and apples, from New Zealand, Israel and Romania.

The shares rose 1p to 170p.

## Close up to £12.3m despite recession

By NEIL BENNETT  
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

CLOSE Brothers, the specialist merchant bank, has beaten many of its larger rivals by increasing its profit during the recession. The pre-tax figure rose by £200,000 to £12.3 million.

Rod Kent, the managing director, said he was proud of the result. The year had been the most difficult since he joined the bank in 1974. The final dividend of 6p makes a total of 8.8p for the year, up 10 per cent.

During the year, Close reviewed many of the businesses for sale in the financial services field and made four acquisitions for about £6 million. They included a car finance company from Berisford International and Security Pacific's factoring subsidiary.

Despite low bad debt provisions overall, Close was still hit by defaults in Clearbrook Trust, its second-mortgage company.

The bank has decided to close the business, at an extraordinary cost of £1.81 million, and has reduced Clearbrook's loan book from a peak of £14 million to £5 million.

Otherwise, Close's main businesses of printing machinery, finance and insurance premium finance continued to grow steadily. The bank's loan book grew £73 million to £239 million, although the gearing ratio remains low.

Mr Kent said the bank was still looking for acquisitions, although it was rare for companies to match its criteria.

He said Close's trading in the current year would be easier than last year, but that the fall in interest rates would reduce the return on the bank's capital.

## Ramar shares suspended from trading

By MARTIN BARROW

SHARES in Ramar Textiles were halted at 14p pending clarification of the company's finances, less than 48 hours before shareholders were due to vote on boardroom changes and refinancing proposals.

The company, a supplier of women's and children's garments to Marks and Spencer, is in the process of raising £5.8 million via a five-for-two rights issue and placing at 8p a share. Shareholders are due to vote on the proposals at an extraordinary meeting tomorrow.

Samuel Montagu, underwriter to the issue, declined to comment, but it is thought Ramar's new financial backers had not withdrawn support. Ramar has not yet received the rights issue funds.

## Bass agrees sale of 372 Midlands pubs

BASS, the brewing to hotels group, has passed the halfway point in its programme of disposals after agreeing the sale of 372 Midlands pubs to Enterprise Inns for an undisclosed sum. Bass has also agreed terms for the sale of a further 400 pubs. Enterprise, based in Solihull, is a new management company set up by a team of brewing industry professionals headed by Michael Cottrell, chairman of Taunton Cider and formerly managing director of Courage. Enterprise said it would use the purchase of the Bass pubs as a "springboard for further acquisitions".

Since July 1989, Bass has disposed of more than 1,430 pubs for a total of about £240 million.

## Hopkinsons slips 8.7%

HOPKINSONS Group, the engineering concern that has made an agreed bid for Carbo, the industrial abrasives maker, saw profits drop 8.7 per cent to £3.02 million in the six months to end-July. Sales fell 29.9 per cent to £18.7 million. Earnings slipped to 3.18p (3.68p) a share, but the interim dividend stays at 1.2p.

## Healthy move for Kynoch

G&G KYNOC is back in profit after moving from textiles to the distribution of healthcare products, with £460,000 pre-tax in the six months to end-June. This compared with losses of £387,000 over the last similar period. Earnings were 2.4p a share. Dividend payments will be resumed "as soon as possible".

## Goodhead axes payout

GOODHEAD Group, the printing, publishing and marketing services company, has passed its final dividend (3.75p), making 0.5p (5.5p) for the year after pre-tax profits plunged to £768,000 (£4.02 million) in the year to end-May.

Shares added 4p to 40p. There was a loss per share of 0.7p, against earnings of 15.3p last time. Net interest costs jumped to £2.34 million (£1.85 million). There was an exceptional credit of £660,000, mainly from the sale of property. Writedowns in the value of titles were largely responsible for an extraordinary loss of £2.53 million.

## Manders hit by bad debt

MANDERS (Holdings), the Wolverhampton paint, ink and property group, saw pre-tax profit slide 20 per cent to £2.44 million in the six months to end-June. The figure was hit by a £380,000 bad debt resulting from the failure of a customer. Sales fell 4 per cent to £50.6 million. The interim dividend is held at 2p.

## Bio-tech firm suffers loss

BRITISH Bio-technology made an operating loss of £7.86 million in the year to end-April. This was partly offset by investment income of £2.27 million. Losses in the previous 12 months were £4.5 million. The pharmaceutical research and development company was launched five years ago and is valued at £103 million.

## Linread figures slump

SHARES in Linread, the specialist industrial fasteners group, fell 8p to 90p after a slump in first-half profits. Linread blamed deteriorating economic conditions and combined trading losses of more than £1 million at the group's commercial products division and at North Bridge Hassall, the company's American subsidiary that has now been closed.

Pre-tax profits plunged to £126,000 in the six months to end-June, against £1.67 million last time. Restructuring costs led to an extraordinary debit of £900,000. Earnings per share dived to 0.56p (8.9p), but the interim dividend is maintained at 2p.

## Evans Halshaw slows

EVANS Halshaw Holdings, the multi-franchise motor dealer, is holding its interim dividend at 3.6p a share despite a 27 per cent fall in pre-tax profits and difficult trading conditions (Martin Barrow writes).

In the six months to end-June, profits fell from £2.6 million before tax to £1.9 million as a result of weak demand for new vehicles and lower margins. Earnings were 5.6p a share, against 7.7p. Sales reflected national trends, including a 25 per cent decline in new car registrations and a 32 per cent fall in demand for commercial vehicles. This was partly offset by a 15 per cent rise in used car sales and a 10 per cent increase in profits from follow-up sales.

Turnover fell from £207 million to £173 million and trading profits from £5.66 million to £3.57 million. But interest charges fell from £3.1 million to £1.7 million after last year's sale of the Moprod-Supra spare parts subsidiary, resulting in a £12 million benefit from the cash consideration and reduced borrowings.

## Property provisions depress Arcadian

By MATTHEW BIND

ARCADIAN International, a property group turned leisure developer, suffered increased pre-tax losses of £2.8 million in the year to end-April, the first full results since Robert Breare and Jeremy Priestley, former executives of Parkside Holdings, took control.

An operating loss of £1.3 million was exacerbated by £1.9 million of exceptional items, most of which relate to provisions on the commercial property portfolio owned by Westminster and Country Properties, which Arcadian reversed into last year. The losses mean no dividend is being paid, compared with a total of 4p last year. Last year's loss has been restated as £378,000.

Sales of properties have raised £5 million, although about £2 million was received after the year-end. The four properties that remain have a book value of £5.4 million. Short-term debt of £3.1 million represents gearing of 39 per cent.

The group is involved in golf-related projects in France, Spain and Britain and is looking for similar opportunities in Italy. Grahame Sewell, finance director, said Arcadian's projects had a development cost of £100-200 million. "We try to get into projects at a very early stage, when entry costs are normally low," he said.

Arcadian's strategy is to take project management fees and equity stakes in lieu of finders' fees. Most development costs are met by bank debt and local equity investors.

## Fairey suffers fall in Middle East trade

By PHILIP PANGALOS

THE loss of Middle East filtration business and lower demand from the construction sector were blamed for a dip in interim profits at Fairey Group, the specialist engineer.

Pre-tax profits eased 1.7 per cent to £7.07 million in the half year to end-June, against £7.19 million last time. Turnover rose to £43.2 million (£43.1 million). About half the sales were generated overseas.

Operating profits slipped to £6.24 million (£6.44 million). The main culprit was the filtration and specialised ceramics division where profits

fell to £1.51 million (£2.05 million), on turnover of £12.9 million (£14 million).

Organic growth helped the electronics and electrical power division's profits to rise to £3.68 million (£3.38 million) on turnover of £18.1 million (£16 million). Aerospace and defence profits climbed to £1.05 million (£1.01 million), on turnover of £12.1 million (£13.1 million).

Earnings per share dipped to 13.3p (13.7p), although the interim dividend is raised to 3.0p (2.75p). The shares added 4p to 313p.

## Eadie passes payout

EADIE Holdings, manufacturer of transport equipment and wire products is again passing payment of an interim dividend after incurring losses of £334,000 in the six months to end-June. This compares with losses of £204,000 in the first half of 1990. Losses per share were 0.99p (0.58p loss).

The company hopes to reverse its fortunes with the sale of Astraflex, a specialist manufacturer of flexible hose, to Teleflex Incorporated (USA) for £2.45 million in cash. The transaction will reduce Eadie's gearing from 110 per cent to 40 per cent. Astraflex's earnings fell from £214,570 in 1989 to £32,052 last year.

## COMPANY BRIEFS

ISA INTNL (Int)  
Pre-tax: £1.03m (£1.75m)  
EPS: 1.942p (3.747p)  
Div: 0.414p (0.414p)

CAVERDALE GROUP (Int)  
Pre-tax: £247,000  
EPS: 1.87p (LPS: 2.94p)  
Div:

SHERWOOD COMP SERV  
Pre-tax: £575,000  
EPS: 6.5p (9.5p)  
Div: 1.5p (1.5p)

SCRUTTONS (Int)  
Pre-tax: £1.08m  
EPS: 16.0p (13.2p)  
Div: 7.5p (6p)

Last time's loss was £298,000. There was a £332,000 exceptional gain. Caverdale has disposed of Kingston Cutting Tools for £24,000.

Interim results. Last time's profit was £252,000. Fully diluted earnings were 8.6p (8.7p). There was an exceptional debit of £280,000.

Last time's profit was £874,000. Turnover slipped to £11.4m (£11.8m). Company said the second half of the year had started well.

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# Unrolling the electoral carpet

COMMENT

The economic carpet is unrolling with ceremonial Treasury precision for an autumn general election, should the prime minister want one, though not without much nudging, winking and judicious massaging of markets. A sharp upward revision of the July retail sales figures, making a 2.2 per cent increase over two months, removes the last suspicion that the June rise was a distorted one-month wonder. Trade is picking up and, even if the pace is not sustained, a consumer-led recovery is now credible even if little else has changed from the dismal days of early summer.

The effect on confidence is more important than the modest actual revival and confidence is being nurtured like a tender seedling. In this, the half-point cuts in base rate have become an important asset, for instance in underpinning rising share prices, despite the frustration of those anxious to make an impact on the recession. The Treasury, having for once sprung a cut on an unsuspecting market last week with no adverse consequence, is now calculating whether it might

squeeze in a further two before an autumn election would have to be called, bringing base rates into single figures.

The market reacted warmly to this idea being floated, pushing sterling up yesterday, and the Bank of England graciously permitted one-month money market rates to come within a whisker of 10 per cent. There will be no surprise or alarm in the markets if base rates come down on the back of the series of encouraging inflation figures this week, especially the sharp fall in retail price inflation to about 4.5 per cent expected on Friday. Another useful fall in RPI inflation should be recorded in October, allowing the second cut to 9.5 per cent.

The assumption has been that the German lombard rate of 9 1/4 per cent was the brick wall that the Treasury would not care to dash the pound against, despite what might be nominally higher consumer price inflation in

Germany. That would be a stern test if rate cuts are to continue, one the Chancellor might prefer not to take before an election.

## SIB rules

Sir David Walker's change of mind over rules for banks and building societies to sell life assurance is a minor victory for consumers. The SIB's earlier proposal to allow them to sell products of several life companies, while actually being linked to each of them, was a recipe to confuse the consumer, who might not be expected to know the difference between being offered variety and independent advice. A continued ban on multiple ties stops things getting worse, but the SIB will need to go much further if the

intended benefits of the Financial Services Act are ever to be felt by buyers of life assurance, who are among those most in need. Clear information at point of sale on how much of premiums are invested and how much can be called on, which requires comparable disclosure of costs, is a basic requirement. Little progress has been made in finding the right formula.

## EMU at bay

The debate on European Monetary Union is proving that the best way to undermine an unwanted concept is to accept it in principle, and let it fail on technicalities. Yesterday's row between European finance ministers bears testimony to this surreptitious

approach, notably by the Germans, who are suspicious of the single currency but afraid to say so in public. The beauty is that Britain is for once not at the centre of the row, but a bemused onlooker watching Germans and Italians at each others' throats.

The fight is between the fiscal and monetary hardliners of northern Europe, and the southern integrationists. The Dutch draft treaty under discussion is no compromise, but staunchly represents the northern view. It specifies a high degree of economic convergence on inflation, currency stability and fiscal policy as a requisite for the third phase of EMU. The hurdles proposed are so formidable that only Germany, its northern neighbours, perhaps France, and, ironically, Britain, could realistically be expected to pass them. The others, most notably Italy, would be excluded. The implication would be a two-speed Europe, a prospect

unacceptable to southern Europe. Italy argues that convergence should be the result of, and not a precursor to, monetary union. Otherwise, as treasury minister Guido Carli said yesterday, the result would be "not an EC enterprise, but an enterprise of some member states". The French have so far sat on the fence, probably the most comfortable position for them at present. Jacques Delors, the French president of the commission, fears that, unless the northern countries cave in, the single currency would be pushed well into the next century and therefore beyond his political life. He is probably right.

The argument on convergence is superficially about cause and effect, but more fundamentally it unveils different views over economic policy and European integration. Being good Europeans, the Germans cannot reject EMU as the British earlier tried to do, but they and the Dutch can make it practically impossible. Three months ahead of the fateful European summit at Maastricht, agreement on a single currency is as far away as ever.

IRAQI crude is set to return to the oil market for the first time since the imposition of an international trade embargo after the invasion of Kuwait.

It threatens to disrupt the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries' (Opec) delicate quota agreement as the crucial winter quarter approaches.

Members of the alliance that fought only six months ago against Iraq, notably America and Britain, are reluctant to lift or modify the embargo on Iraqi oil while Saddam Hussein remains in power, but the United Nations Security Council has decreed that the country should be allowed to raise up to \$1.6 billion through the sale of oil to purchase essential goods.

The resolution was approved on condition Iraq did not have direct access to the proceeds and that about \$700 million should go towards reparations and UN costs.

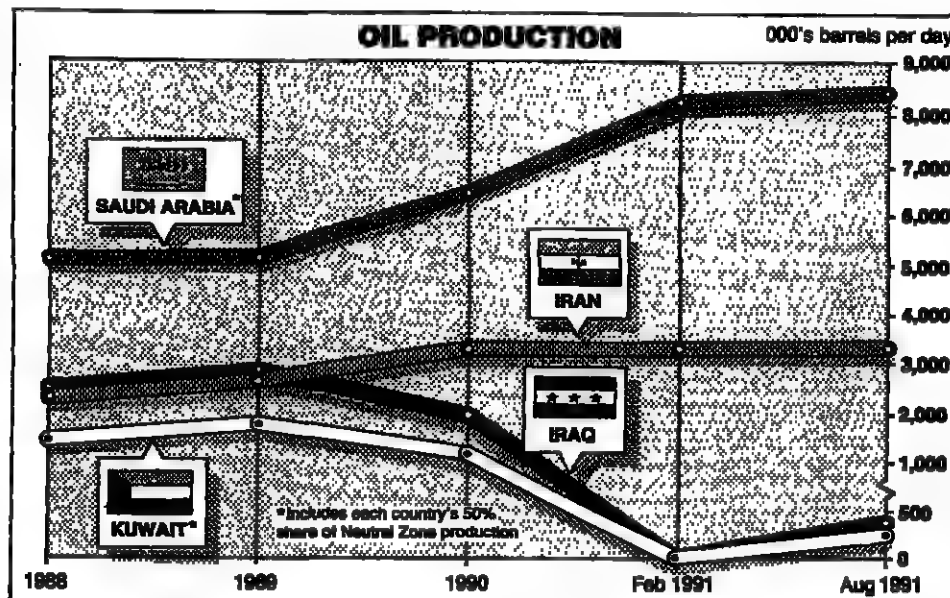
That, however, will not diminish any impact on the oil market. Indeed, Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, the UN secretary-general, has indicated that he considers \$1.6 billion to be insufficient to meet Iraq's needs during the next six months after the payment of reparations and other deductions, and is seeking the release of at least \$2.5 billion of oil.

Señor Pérez de Cuéllar's report, presented to the security council yesterday, points out that if Iraq pumps oil at full capacity, estimated at 1.45 million barrels per day (bpd) after the repair of some facilities damaged by war, the country could generate \$3.1 billion within six months.

If his proposals are accepted, Iraqi oil could be released on to the market early in October. For Opec, the timing could not be worse. On September 24, the organisation meets in Geneva to ratify new winter quarter production quotas now being negotiated between the cartel's members.

Price hawks had hoped to maintain formal output close to the current target of 22.3 million bpd to hold higher oil prices as winter stockbuilding takes place in America and Northwest Europe.

If this target is to be maintained, other members would have to cut output to accommodate Iraqi crude. The greatest pressure will be put on Saudi Arabia and Iran, the two countries that took greatest



## Iraqi oil sales will put fragile unity of Opec to the test

advantage of the absence of Iraqi and Kuwaiti oil to increase their output and keep the market stable.

Yet Saudi Arabia has already signalled its intention of seeking a quota of 8.5 million

bpd, up from 8 million bpd, and close to its current output.

The Saudis, estimated to be placing 500,000 bpd in floating storage at the moment, are unlikely to be willing to sacrifice much-needed revenue to assist a hostile neigh-

bour that only months ago was launching Scud missiles at its cities. Iraq has yet to agree to UN conditions for a resumption in oil exports, which include unprecedented monitoring rights allowing UN agents to assess the value of sales as well as survey quantity and quality. But the Baghdad regime, desperately short of hard currency, appears to have little choice but to comply.

Ghazi Sabar, director general of Iraq's Northern Petroleum Company, which runs all petroleum operations in northern and central Iraq, told *al-Thawra*, the ruling Baath party newspaper, that twin lines carrying oil across Turkey to export jetties in the Mediterranean would be restored to full capacity of about 1.5 million bpd by the end of March. More than 8 million barrels of oil are still in the 600-mile pipelines, while 12 tanks in Turkey's Mediterranean port of Ceyhan hold 1.58 million barrels of Iraqi oil, Turkey said last week.

Mr Sabar said the first stage

of repairs had been carried out to pipelines linking Iraq's northern and southern oilfields and oil from the Basra refinery in southern Iraq had been flowing northwards since July 25. Usama al-Hiti, oil

company, will sell the oil under contracts approved by the UN sanctions committee, and governments must apply on behalf of purchasers. Independent agents will be appointed to negotiate prices for Iraq. Prior to the invasion of Kuwait, Iraqi oil sold at a \$1.50 discount to North Sea Brent, the world's most widely traded oil. With Americans and Europeans still reluctant to buy oil from Iraq, it seems likely that a deeper discount of up to \$2 may be needed.

Another complication for the UN concerns third party claims against Iraq for outstanding debts. Although the UN will grant special status to Iraqi oil, it is unlikely to carry much legal weight. The oil could be seized on transit through Turkey when technically it still belongs to Iraq and not the UN. Turkey has claims against Iraq, although the Turkish government has given some assurances that seizure will not occur. According to *Energy Compass*, the daily oil industry newsletter, Turkey is likely to receive up to 15,000 bpd from Iraq to cover oil handling fees.

The price implications of the return of Iraqi oil to the market are unclear. Some traders believe rising Iraqi and Kuwaiti output will offset falling production in the Soviet Union, the world's largest oil producer, leaving the global balance between supply and demand almost unchanged. Soviet output is heading for a 20-year low of 9.7 million bpd in the final quarter. But it is unclear to what degree this fall will affect exports, because of a fall in domestic demand.

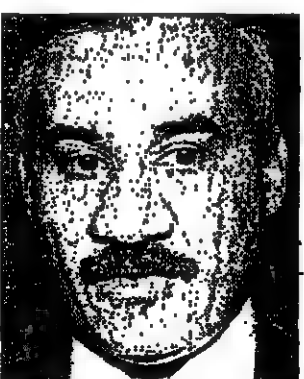
Vagit Alekperov, the acting Soviet oil minister, estimated average Soviet output at 10 million bpd, 1 million bpd less than in 1990, and significantly lower than the International Energy Agency's forecast of 10.5 million bpd. Eastern Bloc Energy, the specialist oil monitoring agency, estimates Soviet oil exports fell 27 per cent to 2.5 million bpd in the first six months of last year.

The irony is that Iraq is being reluctantly accepted back into an oil market able to sustain prices close to \$20 a barrel, a level probably high enough to have deterred Saddam from ordering his troops into Kuwait in the first place. The future promises to be as volatile as the past.

MARTIN BARROW



Pérez de Cuéllar: sell more



Al-Hiti: ready to produce

TEMPUS

## Wilson (Connolly) builds foundation for expansion

IN THE first nine months of 1991, Wilson (Connolly) Holdings, the Northampton housebuilder, bought 2,900 new housebuilding plots, almost five times the amount of land it bought in the whole of 1990.

What really makes the company the envy of its competitors, however, is that this spree of contra-cyclical spending has been achieved without the help of a rights issue and without damaging the balance sheet. With the 2,100 plots bought before the end of the first half in June, Wilson's gearing level was just 3 per cent.

Ian Black, Wilson's managing director, says the buying will continue unless end-of-recession enthusiasm threatens a premature over-heating of the land market. But all the signs are that Wilson's carefully nurtured long-term land bank should rise above the 14,200 plots on board at the half-year.

Wilson's response to a recession that has produced a 28.5 per cent fall in interim pretax profits to £13.8 million has been to turn the heat up under the housebuilding division.

Aggressive marketing, an increase in the percentage of houses aimed at the first time buyer and tight control on work in progress has produced a 20 per cent increase in sales to 1,300 units, putting the company on track for 2,700 by the year end, the highest level for five years.

Others have managed the same trick, but normally by inflicting heavy damage to margins. By contrast, Wilson's net margin was 17 per cent.

With construction and commercial property effectively side-lined as profit centres in the medium term, this year's profits should weigh in at about £28 million, with £37 million looking possible for 1992. Longer term, construction and property could once again add to Wilson's attractions. Despite a current year price earnings-multiple of 20, the shares, yielding 2.6 per cent on yesterday's unchanged 202p price, remain a buy.



Going west (from left) Kanak Bhatt, Rod Sellers, chief executive, and Bob McGee, of British Vita

unduly if they fail. Gearing remains low at 20 per cent.

Forecast profits of about £49 million for the year would give earnings of 16p, putting the shares, which yield 3.8 per cent, on a prospective multiple of about 15 1/2 times earnings for this year, falling to 12 1/2 times in 1992. The rating is justified and now is not the time to sell.

## Suter

THE 10p jump in Suter's share price to 133p yesterday was as much an expression of relief as anything else. The group, which saw pre-tax profits fall 46 per cent to £9.2 million in the six months to end-June, has held the interim dividend at 3.2p and given a commitment to maintain the final at 5.6p.

The market's nervousness over Suter's balance sheet has not entirely disappeared; gearing is 77 per cent and does not look like falling in the short term. Interest is covered a reasonably healthy 4 1/2 times, however, and the shares are

yielding 9.7 per cent. First-half turnover rose 2 per cent to £105 million boosted by acquisitions. Underlying sales fell 5 per cent and earnings per share fell 49 per cent to 5.4p. Suter takes some comfort from the fact that there had been a 9 per cent improvement in the first-half's trading profits compared with the second half last year.

The employee head count is down by 350 and about 60 jobs are due to go. There was a £400,000 exceptional charge for losses incurred last year and the interest charge is up 47 per cent at £2.8 million. Profits in the chemicals division fell 51 per cent.

The confusion over the DTI investigation into some of the company's dealings is unlikely to help the shares, which are 3p off their high for the last 12 months. They may rise slightly on the strong yield but at 11.7 times earnings assuming pre-tax profits of £19 million, forecast by County NatWest, for the full year, they remain a highly speculative investment.

## Will Lamont eat his words?

DEFINITION of an optimist: someone who invites Norman Lamont to an exhibition on mobile telephones. We take our hats off to *Mobile Telecom News*, which hopes to create a stir at Britain's largest exhibition for the mobile phone industry, opening at Wembley today. The magazine is celebrating its tenth anniversary with a large birthday cake, sporting a full-size copy of its front page. And the Chancellor, who dubbed mobile phones "the scourge of modern society" in this year's Budget, has been invited to be present when the cake is cut - allowing him, if he returns from Brussels in time, as it were, to eat his words...

## St Regis gold

THE St Regis hotel in Manhattan, much loved by Alfred Hitchcock and Marlene Dietrich, reopens today after one of the most expensive refits in history. ITT, the American conglomerate and owner of the Sheraton chain, has spent three years and £70 million on refitting the majestic venue, which was built by Colonel John Astor in 1904, with Louis XVI furniture and 20 miles of gold leaf. Spotted

## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

roaming the passages last week was Rand Araskog, chairman of ITT, and one of America's most highly paid executives. He has been criticised by shareholders for taking home \$11 million last year, even though the company's profits rose 4 per cent. Suites at the St Regis cost £1,700 a night.

THE panic is over for one public relations company. Vivien Marcy, former director of the Rowland Company, has joined Cornerstone Communications as head of its crisis unit.

## Worked to death

THE Japanese work 11 hours a day - and it is killing them. Or is it? Death from overwork, or *karoshi*, as the phenomenon is known, is turning into a bad dream for Japanese executives, according to a review by *Esquire* magazine. As an increasing number of overworked workers keel over in the street, a *karoshi* hotline has been set up

to offer advice on staying alive. For all that, the Japanese still manage to live longer on average than anyone else - 81 for women and 76 for men - and those who supposedly die of *karoshi* probably have cigarettes, cholesterol and whisky to blame.

GREENCORE beckons GREENCORE, the Dublin food group at the centre of a shareholding dispute, has

wasted little time trying to replace Christopher Comerford, who resigned as group managing director last Wednesday. By Friday, advertisements for a new top man were running in the Irish national press, offering a salary of Ir£135,000 (£122,700) and upwards, along with a juicy package of benefits. The British Sunday newspapers followed through, and the company hopes to fill the space soon. Comerford stepped down over allegations that he held an undisclosed interest in a company that was acquired by Greencore before it went public in April.

## Pay day, late day

AS TELEVISION companies go, TVS Entertainment is more aware of costs than most. TVS, which has bid £54 million to retain its south of England franchise, has already admitted cutting its grass mowing contract from £12,000 to £7,000. Now it has told staff they will be paid at the end of the month from now on, rather

than on the 15th. Employees have been offered interest-free loans to tide them over, but the unions are expected to take a dim view of developments.

NOTICE fixed to a photocopy in a firm of accountants in Mayfair: "Copier temporarily out of order."

## Kaye back in town

SOCIETE Generale, the French bank, is training its sights on the competitive world of UK oil futures trading. Weeks after poaching Angela Hay and her team from Sueden, the French commodities house, to set up a rival operation at Fimal, Société Générale's subsidiary, the bank has appointed Brian Kaye to run Fimal's London operations. Kaye, who flew in from Tokyo two weeks ago, takes charge of all of Fimal's European operations and intends to flex his muscles in the weeks ahead. "We will be taking steps to become the major broker in financial futures in London," says Kaye, who was head-hunted by Société Générale in 1987 while working for Lloyds Bank in Japan. He replaces Miguel Gomez, former general manager of the London office.

JON ASHWORTH

## American Express Bank Personal Account

With effect from 10th September 1991 the rates of interest applicable to American Express Bank Personal Account overdrafts detailed below (formerly called Gold Card Overdraft account) are to be decreased and the Agreements with all holders of such accounts will be so varied.

For Overdraft facilities granted prior to 1st February 1989 the monthly interest rate will be 1.66% effective Annualised Interest Rate 21.8%.

For Overdraft facilities granted on or after 1st February 1989:

Overdraft Limit Assigned	Monthly Interest Rate	Annualised Interest Rate
£0-£5,000	1.66%	22.2%
£5,001-£10,000	1.66%	21.8%
£10,001 and above	1.20%	15.3%

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## High quality is all

For 150 years standards have been enforced

ANYBODY who wants to practise pharmacy must be registered with the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, the profession's governing body, which sets, maintains and enforces standards both within the profession and anywhere that medicines are sold to the public.

Formed in 1841 as an association of the leading chemists and druggists in Britain, the society has five main functions: registration, law enforcement, education, scientific publishing and establishing the ethics and standards required within pharmacies (Pat Blair writes).

There are 37,700 pharmacists registered with the society, as well as 11,700 pharmacies and 1,800 saddleries and licensed agricultural-medicine merchants' premises, where animal medicines are stored and sold.

Within the society's legal division, headed by Susan Marsh, 20 inspectors have statutory powers under the Medicines Act to inspect all premises where medicines are sold - from pharmacies to corner shops, but excluding doctors' or veterinary surgeons' practices. Acting on the inspectors' reports, the society is empowered to prosecute where it finds medicines being sold illegally.

When it comes to a failure to maintain standards, whether of the pharmacist or the premises, the society's statutory committee can take direct action. "The ultimate penalty is removal from the register," says Roger Odd, head of the practice division.

Any appeal against such a decision is to the High Court and then the Privy Council. Under the auspices of its science division, the society also publishes scientific research, often through its *Pharmaceutical Journal*. It also publishes *Martindale*, the pharmaceutical reference "bible", and, with the British Medical Association, it also publishes the *British National Formulary*, which is updated every six months and widely used by the medical and allied professions.



High street health care: pharmacists are moving out of their back rooms full of pills and potions as customers increasingly call on them for expert help

## Self-help medicine for all

Dispensing medical advice is part of a pharmacist's job. Pat Blair looks at how their role is changing

Al over Britain six million people a day visit a pharmacy, a million of them consulting the pharmacist for advice, according to figures from a survey by the National Pharmaceutical Association.

Roger Odd, the head of the practice division of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, says those figures pre-date recent campaigns to encourage the public to make greater use of pharmacists' expertise in providing advice and information about drugs and general health care.

The traditional picture of the white-coated figure counting out pills in the depths of a high street chemist's shop is no longer appropriate to today's pharmacist. He, or more probably she - 60 per cent of pharmacists are women - is more likely to be behind the counter giving out a wide range of advice.

While the pharmacy's main role is to dispense prescription medicines - of which more than 446 million were supplied last year - and supply general medicines to the pub-

lic, more and more are offering a wider range of health-care services.

Pregnancy testing has long been available, but some pharmacists now also offer paid blood-pressure tests and cholesterol screening, as well as free advice on such diverse subjects as stopping smoking, suntan safety, migraine, back pain and diet. Monthly information leaflets, provided through the Pharmacy Health Care scheme run by the Royal Pharmaceutical Society, are also available to customers.

Gill Hawksworth, a community pharmacist in Mirfield, West Yorkshire, opened her business five years ago in a small parade of shops in a housing development about two miles from the nearest doctor's surgery. A high proportion of elderly people, as well as young mothers, regard Mrs Hawksworth as their local health professional.

"It has been hard work, but

I get a lot of job satisfaction out of it - and I'm needed by the community," she says. She employs ten part-time staff: a pharmacist; medicine-counter assistants, who have undergone or are in the process of attending a recognised training course; and, usually, a pre-registration pharmacist.

She operates a computerised medicines register, on which she can check possible drug interactions for each patient recorded on the system. As her shop is not near a doctor's surgery, "it is not quite as intense dispensing as some pharmacies - more a steady trickle throughout the day", she says.

"Nowadays we don't make up a lot of mixtures, although there are certain ointments that we still make," she says. "A very important part of our job is counselling patients and checking they know when and how to take their medicines."

In addition Mrs Hawksworth offers diabetes screen-

ing in a paid-for system now under trial, and runs a free delivery service for prescription medicines to housebound patients, often advising them on all aspects of the medicine, including any side-effects.

The fact that patients do not have to make an appointment to see a pharmacist means that the pharmacist will often be the first professional they consult. That advice may well be to go and see a doctor but equally pharmacists may provide reassurance over minor ailments.

A survey of 997 housewives carried out earlier this year by Mintel, the market analysts, found that more than 70 per cent of them recognised that the government was encouraging self-medication.

As Mintel quoted: "Some 60 per cent of respondents accepted the role of the pharmacist as adviser for the treatment of minor ailments and 74 per cent of respondents believed pharmacists to be as effective as doctors in this role."

A health department working party, set up earlier this year, and due to report next month, is reviewing the role of community pharmacists, looking at what they do now and whether there is any area that could be expanded.

Apart from their main task of supplying medicines and dispensing prescriptions, there are a number of newer roles, Mr Odd says. "We are trying to see if they can be expanded so that where they are thought to be of benefit to the community pharmacists can, perhaps, be encouraged to participate and also be paid for some of the services they provide," he says.

Government money is already provided to pharmacists involved in needle-exchange schemes, designed to limit the spread of the HIV virus that causes AIDS.

The question is, where next will the government put money to expand areas in which pharmacists are now prepared to operate?

## Prescription for the future

Patients expect their GP to prescribe medicines - but costs must be reduced

For two out of three patients, a visit to the family doctor will end with a prescription. Several surveys have even concluded that most patients feel cheated if they are not given one.

In addition to the billions spent on prescription medicines, another £500 million is spent at the pharmacy. Over the past 30 years the spending on medicines has increased as new and better treatments for a wide variety of illnesses have become available.

That trend is likely to continue as health-screening programmes become more widely available and more people live longer. Health screening should form part of the growing interest in preventive medicine and health and fitness, but surveys into the expectations of patients suggest that once screening reveals something like high blood pressure the individual is likely to expect a quick-fix treatment.

Since all drugs have unwanted as well as beneficial side-effects, all medicines are tightly controlled. Testing of new drugs is regulated by the Medicines Act, which was established after the thalidomide disaster, but no drug can be guaranteed to be totally free of side-effects.

The modern drug industry dates from 1935. The first medicines based on modern synthetic substances were the sulphonamides. They were derived from a red dye called *protonil rubra*, which produced an antibacterial agent in the body from the breakdown of the dye into a compound named sulphamamide that blocks the growth of certain microbes. Since its discovery, hundreds of similar drugs have been produced.

Those employed today do

not differ very much in their antibacterial effects, but they have limited use and do not prevent the spread of many strains of bacteria.

In the antimicrobial field, scientists have recently created the quinolones, which are unusual in the way they kill the microbe by targeting and interfering with an enzyme that is critical to the replication of DNA when the bacteria is trying to multiply and spread.

Understandably, millions of prescriptions a year are issued for the proprietary compounds that follow such fundamental discoveries.

In 1985, in an effort to curb the mounting NHS drug bill, the government introduced a restricted list of medicines available on the NHS. Another way of reducing the bill, which has been rejected by the government, is to allow generic substitution. All prescription medicines have three names; the name of the active chemical on which they are based, a generic name that follows an international convention for describing classes of drug, and the brand name.

Patients last 20 years, but since there is an up to ten-year gap before new drugs are marketed, companies expect to recoup their money in the ten years before expiry. Competitors are free to market generics (their own cheaper version) once the patent has run out.

Some doctors need reassurance about the quality of generics. But it is perhaps the patients who worry most on finding a change on the name, appearance and packaging of their tablets.

PEARCE WRIGHT

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## Fuelling the nation's wealth

Despite the recession, sales by the drug industry are rising at home and abroad

BRITAIN'S pharmaceutical companies are major contributors to the economy (Pat Blair writes).

While manufacturing declined in 1990, output in the pharmaceutical industry rose by 5 per cent, according to figures published last month by the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry (ABPI).

Total sales last year reached £6.7 billion. Of that, the industry exported products worth £2.2 billion and earned a record trade surplus of £1 billion in pharmaceuticals to help boost the country's balance of payments, says the ABPI, which represents 111 British manufacturers.

These sales are not only made in prescription medicines. Last month a report by Mintel International group, the market research analyst, estimated that the value of the market in over-the-counter health-care products would this year be around £950 million rising to £1 billion by 1994. The market for homeopathic medicines, it says, doubled in four years, from £6 million in 1986 to £12 million in 1990, and is expected to reach £15 million by the end of this year.

ANNUALLY, pharmaceutical companies now spend around £1 billion on research and development, a four-fold increase over the past ten years.

However, they have constantly lobbied for a longer term of patent protection. Under the present system a patent is valid for only 20 years. Given the amount of time it takes to develop, test and gain licences for medicines destined for human consumption, the industry effectively has only eight years' protection. When the patent lapses, other companies can capitalise on successful compounds, without incurring the development costs.

As 1992 and the single European market approaches, the European Commission

has proposed a period of patent protection of up to 16 years from the time the product is on the market. In contrast, the British government has proposed a 13-year term.

Dr John Griffin, the director of the ABPI, has already sounded alarm bells. Government policies, he says, "could seriously hamper the industry as we approach the challenge of 1992. It will not just be the industry that suffers: lack of proper encouragement in the search for new treatments will affect patient care and hamper the industry's export efforts."

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Good pharmacists are in demand and the profession is particularly attractive to women, Pat Blair reports

## Branching out in all directions

Endless and limitless — that is how one pharmacist describes the opportunities in industry open to pharmacy graduates. Industrial pharmacy is one of the three main branches of the profession, the others being community pharmacy — the retail, or high street, chemist — and hospital pharmacy. All, however, have one thing in common: nationwide, the demand for graduates is generally greater than the supply. Good, keen pharmacists are seldom unemployed.

This is because the pharmacy training course provides a broad-based science degree — Bachelor of Science (B.Sc) or Bachelor of Pharmacy (B.Pharm) — that is readily adaptable to a variety of working conditions. Three or four-year pharmacy degree courses are offered at 16 schools of pharmacy in Britain: ten universities, five polytechnics and one Scottish central institution.

Applicants usually need three A-levels, including chemistry, plus any two subjects from a biological science, mathematics and physics. Alternatively, they may hold a combination of two A-levels, one being chemistry, plus two AS-levels that include at least one science subject.

Graduates must then do one year's paid practical training — in any branch of the profession, although six months

must be spent in either a community or hospital pharmacy — before taking the registration examination that allows them to practise as pharmacists. Here, both the pharmacy and the supervision tutor must be approved for training purposes by the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain.

After that, it is into the wide world of pharmacy. Within the pharmaceutical industry, Dr Linda Hakes, a project manager at the Lilly Research Centre in Windlesham, Surrey, says: "The main areas pharmacists enter are product

formulation and development, manufacturing, product registration or information functions — either to other disciplines within a company or to outside organisations such as hospitals, family doctors, poisons units or health service bodies."

Sales and marketing are often springboards to higher management within the pharmaceutical industry. Here, Dr Hakes says, a job applicant with a pharmacy degree has the edge over other graduates "all other things being equal".

The National Health Service similarly offers choice to the pharmacist, and both the career structure and the pay has improved in recent years.

On entry to the hospital service, a basic-grade pharmacist would expect to receive £11,700 (more in London). Typically, however, a new



Patient care: Beverly Bevan, a clinical services pharmacist, speaks to Muriel Winger at Princess Alexandra hospital

entrant would earn about £13,200, rising after four years to about £20,000. "The prospects are very good if you are dynamic and go-ahead. There is a good career structure and there are different specialities within hospital pharmacy," says Andrew Barber, the principal pharmacist at the Princess Alexandra hospital in Harlow, Essex.

The branch of the profession that is rapidly developing its advisory role to the public is that of community pharmacy. There is choice here again: whether to run one's own business, do locum work, or work for one of the big retail pharmacy chains. Starting salaries are about £12,000 a year.

Those who opt for the

academic life may go into research or teaching, whether in schools, universities, polytechnics or veterinary schools. Of all branches of the profession, teaching is likely to be comparatively the least well-paid.

There are also some lesser known areas in which pharmacists work. Those with a diploma in agricultural and

veterinary pharmacy, for example, find the way open to pharmacies specifically geared to agricultural or veterinary work, such as farmers' co-operatives and industrial manufacturers. Forensic science laboratories also employ qualified pharmacists.

Pharmacy can be particularly suited to women with children. Sixty per cent of registered pharmacists are women and while their children are growing up female pharmacists often undertake locum or part-time work before returning full-time.

People in the field emphasise that pharmacy is also a profession in which one can move reasonably freely from one branch to another, from community pharmacy to industry, for example, at any stage in their lives.

## No longer confined to dispensaries

Work in hospitals ranges from advising consultants to intravenous feeding

CLINICAL pharmacists are often to be found among the white-coated group on rounds of hospital wards. They can advise doctors on drug therapy, either in response to a question from the doctor or, where the pharmacist has monitored the patient's prescription card, make an alternative suggestion. (Pat Blair writes).

At the 400-bed Princess Alexandra hospital in Harlow, Essex, Andrew Barber is the principal pharmacist. "The pharmacist is there as an adviser, suggesting to medical consultants and registrars alternative medication, or ways of delivering medicine appropriate to the needs of the patient," he says.

In July, for example, the Princess Alexandra pharmacy issued nearly 8,000 items. Of these more than 2,000 went to out-patients; 1,600 were stock items for general use on the wards; 1,700 were medicines for individual in-patients and about 2,300 were drugs issued to patients on their discharge.

That, according to Mr Barber, is a typical month. He manages a department of 40 people in three pharmacies across the health district and is responsible for a wide range of services for patients, hospital staff and local family doctors. Pharmacists and pharmacy technicians provide an on-call service, mainly used at weekends.

A key area in hospital pharmacy is the buying and distribution of medicines. Hospital dispensaries, under the control of a registered pharmacist, supply and control medicine stocks to the wards, generally in discussion with the ward sister and for use on a day-to-day basis. They also supply drugs specially requested by the consultant for individual patients and service the medicinal needs both of out-patients and patients being discharged. Within the dispensary, "a lot of the work is performed by qualified pharmacy technicians who hold the BTEC in pharmaceutical sciences," Mr Barber says.

Pharmacists in the dispensary also work in specialist teams, for example responsible for feeding patients entirely intravenously — total parenteral nutrition. "It is the pharmacist who possesses the skills and the knowledge to prescribe parenteral nutrition," Mr Barber says. The feeds, which contain everything the patient needs, from carbohydrates to fats, salts and minerals, are made up by pharmacists to individual requirements.

"It is possible to buy more things off the shelf but we don't have the same flexibility if we buy, for example, from a drug company," Mr Barber says. The pharmacists monitor the quality of medicines. A limited number of medicinal compounds are also prepared at the hospital, although when Crown immunity against prosecution was removed from NHS premises the number of hospital manufacturing bases dropped because pharmacies, in effect, had to apply for a licence to manufacture.



Andrew Barber: expanding role

### OPTIONS FOR THOSE WITH A TECHNICAL BENT

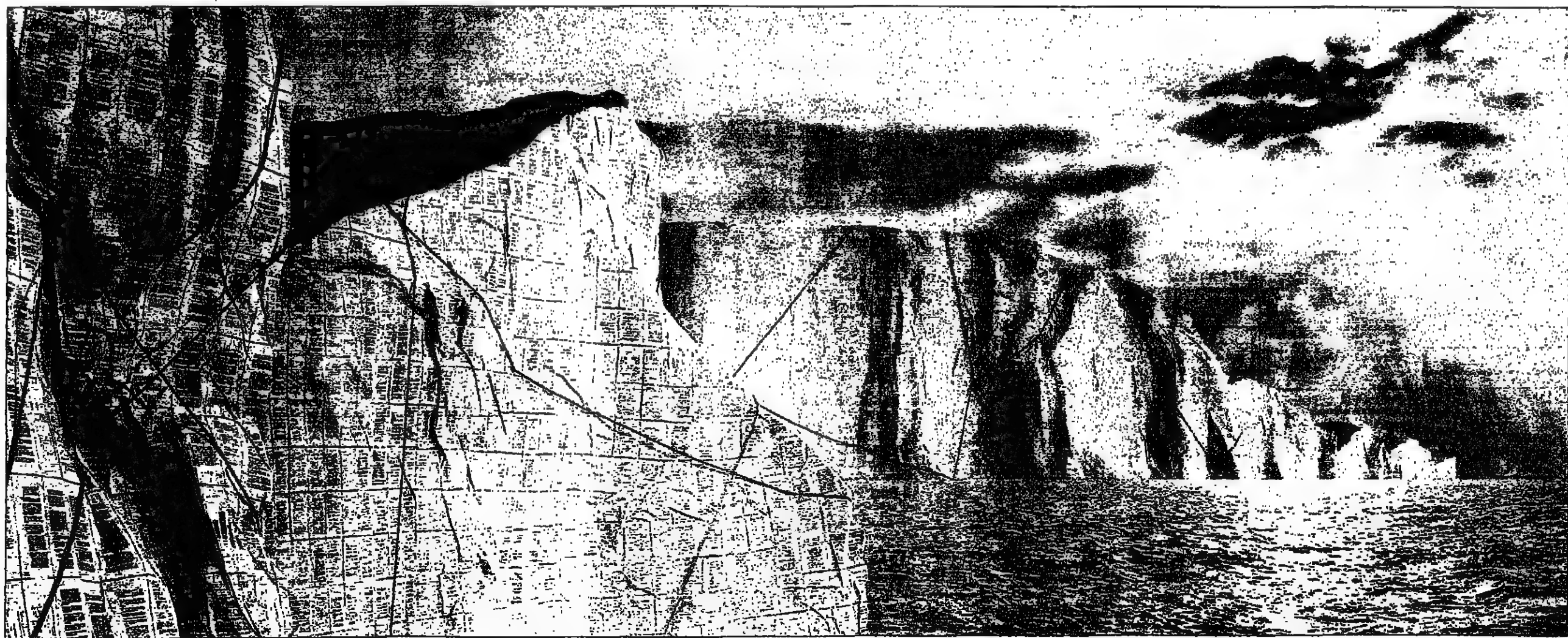
PHARMACY work is not exclusive to those with a pharmacy degree (Pat Blair writes). In dispensaries, for example, while responsibility lies with the pharmacist, a lot of the work is done by pharmacy technicians who hold the Business and Technician Education Council (BTEC) certificate in pharmaceutical sciences.

The course, run in a number of technical and further education colleges, is open to those employed in a pharmacy. It is normally taken on a day-release basis over two or three years.

Applicants require four or five GCSEs, including science subjects — chemistry, biology, mathematics, physics — and English language. An alternative is the certificate of the Society of Apothecaries, which offers day-release or correspondence courses. Students can then go on for a further year of day-release study for the BTEC qualification.

Typically, qualified technicians start in the NHS at a salary of £10,000 a year; senior technicians will earn about £13,000, while chief technicians start at about £15,000.

## IT TAKES MILLIONS OF WORDS TO WRITE ONE PRESCRIPTION



But the documentation necessary to gain approval for a new medicine is only one sign of the enormous intellectual and financial effort involved.

In fact the latest figures show that as well as the dedication of thousands of scientists, it takes, on average, ten years and costs £150 million to bring one pharmaceutical compound to the market.

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Our expenditure on R&D has grown 16 times in the last ten years and now approaches £500 million a year.

The enormous benefit this long term investment brings to individual patients and to national economies is hard to quantify. However, the effective use of prescription medicines plays a vital part in keeping people out of hospital and operating theatres, reducing pressures on both healthcare

services and budgets alike.

But the massive investment programmes necessary to continue the research and development of new medicines can only flourish in the right climate.

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6	EMAP	Newspapers/Pub	Gold
7	ERA GP	Drugs/Stores	Gold
8	Ten Ridge	Industrials E-Z	Gold
9	Chelver	Property	Gold
10	BVI	Industrials A-D	Gold
11	Fin Drilling	Building/Roads	Gold
12	Maiden	Building/Roads	Gold
13	Keley Ind	Industrials E-Z	Gold
14	Pendragon	Motors/Aircraft	Gold
15	Winton	Property	Gold
16	Fisher (James)	Transport	Gold
17	ECC Group	Industrials E-K	Gold
18	Calderbury	Food	Gold
19	Wesall	Industrials E-Z	Gold
20	Goodhead	Paper/Print/Adv	Gold
21	Time Products	Drugs/Stores	Gold
22	Hawker Siddeley	Industrials E-K	Gold
23	Formister	Drugs/Stores	Gold
24	McKendrick	Industrials L-R	Gold
25	Mind	Electronics	Gold
26	WPP	Paper/Print/Adv	Gold
27	United Newspapers	Newspapers/Pub	Gold
28	Wicks	Drugs/Stores	Gold
29	Polystyrene	Industrials A-D	Gold
30	Farmy Group	Industrials E-K	Gold
31	Herring Sea	Property	Gold
32	NFC	Transport	Gold
33	TT Group	Industrials E-Z	Gold
34	Beatt Oceans	Chemicals/Plas	Gold
35	Amec & Pons	Transport	Gold
36	Ultramar	Oil/Gas	Gold
37	More O'Farrell	Paper/Print/Adv	Gold
38	Compas GP	Leisure	Gold
39	Praxair	Newspapers/Pub	Gold
40	Cloze Bros	Books/Discs	Gold
41	Tate & Lyle	Food	Gold
42	Johnson Cleaners	Industrials E-K	Gold
43	Yorkshire TV	Leisure	Gold

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend						
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00

Four readers shared yesterday's Portfolio Platinum prize. Mr Andrew Ruck, of Sevenoaks, Kent, Mr Ronald Corks, of Tunbridge Wells, Kent, Mrs K. Woodhouse, of Marlborough, Wiltshire, and Mr David Forsyth, of Swindon, each receive £500.

## STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

# Shares lose ground

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began September 2. Dealings end September 13. Contango day September 16. Settlement day September 23.  
Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

### Portfolio PLATINUM

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22	Hawker Siddeley	Industrials E-K	Gold
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High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
100	98	British Petroleum	98.00	-0.10	-0.10	15.8
100	98	Shell	98.00	-0.10	-0.10	15.8
100	98	Esso	98.00	-0.10	-0.10	15.8

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Christopher Miller weighs the merits and demerits of accident compensation practice in Britain

## Victims missed in the HIV payout

John Major's decision, soon after becoming prime minister, to authorise compensation for 1,200 haemophiliacs who had become HIV-infected after treatment with contaminated blood products was interpreted by the pundits as revealing a basic humanitarian instinct rarely shown by his predecessor.

Meanwhile, his administration's continued refusal to extend this out-of-court settlement to an estimated 400 non-haemophiliac recipients of HIV-contaminated blood is condemned as callous and arbitrary. Before joining the protest, however, should we not consider exactly what a coherent approach to cases of this sort would entail?

The outcry over the government's seemingly inconsistent response to contaminated blood victims is comparable in its intensity with that provoked nearly 30 years ago by the delays and difficulties faced by the parents of thalidomide victims in securing compensation from the drug's distributors.

Then, as now, the public debate concentrated on the relative merits of a "no-fault" scheme covering all accidents (medical, traffic and occupational), as adopted in New Zealand and elsewhere, and the time-honoured damages payment in a common law (tort) action, in which negligent victims succeed in showing that their injuries stemmed from the defendant's negligence.

A thorough review of the many sources of compensation for injury — tort, private insurance, national insurance, social security — was carried out by the royal commission, chaired by Lord Pearson, which reported in 1978. Although the commission could not be said to have endorsed the existing disparate systems, its recommendations represented only piecemeal reform: tort should be retained, but social security should be recognised as the principal means of compensation, and double compensation should be avoided by offsetting social security payments in the assessment of tort damages.

A new benefit for severely handicapped children and the need to end the confusion over the legal rights of a fetus, highlighted by the thalidomide tragedy, were two of the few recommendations to be implemented.

In the years immediately after Pearson, there were few reasons why its depressing concerns should excite much public interest. Although more people may have bene-

fited under the criminal injuries compensation scheme, the decline in mining, steel, shipbuilding and other heavy industries meant there were fewer calls on the industrial injuries scheme.

Victims in these categories, however, were far fewer than those whose injuries, and subsequent claims for monetary redress via third-party insurance, resulted from road accidents.

Yet, no matter how often we are reminded that the annual death toll on the roads, particularly among younger people, far exceeds the combined fatalities at Hillsborough, Zeebrugge, Clapham and King's Cross, only in the aftermath of such disasters does the reform of accident liability law command a prominent place in the political agenda.

Disasters are also catalysts in developing case law. The arbitration over damages awarded to survivors of the Herald of Free Enterprise tragedy established that "nervous shock" claims must be based on a recognised psychiatric condition and not simply grief, distress or other normal emotion.

The action of nervous shock has recently been further developed by the Court of Appeal, which held that this condition was a ground for claims by a Hillsborough victim's parent or spouse provided, he or she, had been present in the stadium on that afternoon. More distant relatives and those who witnessed the events on television could not claim.

The Court of Appeal judges argued that the defendant, South Yorkshire police, although negligent in opening the gates, could not be liable for nervous shock caused by the apprehension of the consequences of this action for loved ones known to be in the crowd. If that apprehension arose from the "broadcast of selective images", not through direct experience.

Fine legal distinctions of this kind would merit the attention of a W.S. Gilbert or an A.P. Herbert if they arose in less tragic circumstances.

If, however, the idea of certain groups being required to establish the balance of probability that their injury was the fault of some other party before redress is possible, while others automatically become beneficiaries of some state-funded scheme, seems too repugnant for satire, one must ask why successive governments have chosen not to rationalise so heterogeneous a system.

To the political scientist, this question does not seem



Sad scene: this woman, HIV-infected by a transfusion, still awaits compensation

unduly problematic. At one (the right-hand) extreme, the tort system is commensurate with the "minimal state" favoured by philosophers such as Nozick, where the state provides no more than the apparatus (the courts) by which interpersonal disputes can be resolved.

The other (the left) extreme is occupied by some hypothetical social security provision, far more comprehensive than anything imagined by Beveridge, guaranteeing continued income support after any degree of incapacity or disability through illness or accident, irrespective of proof of cause, fault or contributory negligence.

In the middle ground one finds such hybrids as the present system, whereby third-party cover through private insurance companies for all motorists is a statutory obligation. Thus any shift in the centre of gravity of the system inevitably entails a greater or lesser role for the state, if not as the provider then as the regulator of private provision.

Life may no longer be nasty, brutish and short for most of the population of Britain, but we all, no matter how unexceptional our lifestyles and cautious our behaviour, remain prey to hazards that can cause untimely death, chronic illness, and physical and mental disability. Increasing understanding of the genetic origins of many disorders has yet to be matched by an ability to control them.

Air travel has led to unprecedented population mixing and exposure to strains of

micro-organisms against which our European immune system is defenceless. As more research is concentrated on the environment, the more it is revealed as the source of a hitherto unsuspected range of vectors of disease.

If the grim reaper can assume so many disguises, why, the collectivist asks, should the ability to point an accusing finger at a negligent individual be so crucial? Is the widow of the golfer struck by lightning no less deserving of income support?

Quite so, the individualist replies. The golfer, knowing the numerous occupational, environmental and other risks he faces and mindful of his responsibilities to his dependants, should therefore devote an appropriate fraction of his disposable income to life insurance.

The collectivist retorts that the state must intervene, given that distribution of income precludes this option for a significant proportion of the population, and given that private insurance will penalise what are seen to be high-risk groups, a term covering not only young motorists and motorcyclists but also those groups, such as haemophiliacs, whose life expectancy is circumscribed by genetics.

What begins as a debate on the right form of redress for victims of medical accidents soon becomes submerged in wider questions on the morality of inequality and on the limits of state intervention.

Radical reform, in either direction, is therefore unlikely while the political parties contest the middle ground and vie with one another in shedding

legal adviser to Central London polytechnic. The firm will advise on income generation research and sponsorship agreements.

### Shifting ground

PROFESSOR Michael Zander, of the London School of Economics, has long campaigned for the ending of the restrictive practices that distinguish the legal profession's two branches. His 1968 work, *Lawyers and the Public Interest*, argued "for a more or less complete dismantling of the whole elaborate network of monopolies and restrictive practices affecting the provision of legal services and the legal profession". How time mellowed Professor Zander's views, the Lord Chancellor's advisory committee on legal education and conduct that he has "considerably modified" his position. Today he favours a continuation of the divided profession. He agrees there should be a second-tier service, the Bar, available to general practitioners to provide specialist expertise in different areas of law and in advocacy. A separate Bar is as convenient a way of giving this service as any others and "in many ways it is more convenient", he says. He also opposes any further extension of rights of audience to employed lawyers, including the Crown Prosecution Service.

SCRIVENER

## Beaten wives have no licence to kill

THE drunken husband has at last tired of kicking and abusing his long-suffering wife and has collapsed in an alcoholic stupor. His wife has picked herself up from the floor and is trying to wash the blood off her face. Fresh swellings cover last week's bruises. She suddenly decides she can take no more, finds a carving knife and stabs her husband to death in his sleep.

In human terms the wife is an object of sympathy and yet as the law stands she is probably guilty of murder and liable to be sentenced to life imprisonment. It is small wonder that such cases as that of Sarah Thornton have led to calls for the law to be changed so that the definition of provocation as a defence to murder is widened.

There is a real danger, however, that if this happens it will lead to more aggrieved women taking the law into their own hands, declaring open season on loush lovers and butchering them wholesale. Under the present definitions, provocation reduces murder to manslaughter. This is unique to murder as a mitigating circumstance in other crimes and has no bearing on the issue of guilt. The definition is narrow. Lord Goddard, in *R v Duff*, said it was an act or words "... which would cause in any reasonable person and actually causes in the accused, a sudden and temporary loss of self-control, rendering the accused so subject to passion as to make him for the moment not master of his mind". The two main problems with this definition are that the provocation has to be sufficient to provoke a reasonable person and that it has to cause a sudden and temporary loss of self-control. If the defendant has been unreasonable or if there has been a cooling-off period between the provocation and the retaliation, the defence will fail.

In cases such as Sarah Thornton's the issue is that of the length of the cooling-off period. Some have argued that, in an appropriate case involving a suitably brutal husband, this period can be extended almost indefinitely. This approach is entirely wrong because it implies that such people can justifiably be killed for their behaviour.

Let us be realistic about the penalties involved. A woman who kills her brutal husband and is convicted of murder will receive a sentence of life imprisonment. She is highly unlikely to serve more than seven years and could well be released from prison after four or five years.

Now provocation only reduces murder to manslaughter and the maximum sentence for manslaughter is life imprisonment.

Dr Miller is the senior lecturer in environmental health at Salford University.

ment. There is no point in campaigning to extend the definition of provocation if the defendant will end up serving much the same length of time inside. There would be a point only if the defendant were to get a non-custodial sentence.

As anyone who has any dealings with the criminal courts will tell you, defendants regard anything other than an immediate custodial sentence as getting off. The public also regard it as getting off and, what is more, provocation campaigners really want a licence for women to kill violent husbands and get off.

I hold no brief for violent husbands but I do think that they are a danger to society and it should be by Parliament and by the judiciary and not by their wives. Repellent behaviour may be justified, but the courts may be in a better position to deal with their homes and leaving them from their homes. Behaviour still does not justify society in executing them. If society is not justified in executing them, then neither are their wives. Our society is founded on the Judeo-Christian principle that killing people is wrong. If the definition of provocation is extended it will prove a practical impossibility to limit it to domestic cases. The categories of normal family killings will grow as cases produce had lawless by public opinion happy to see unpopular and provocative people getting what are believed to be their just deserts. It may be morality promulgated by Hollywood but there is no room for Rambo in the English legal system. There is, however, room for a sensible amendment to the present law to abolish the present mandatory sentence of life imprisonment for murder. The mandatory sentence was originally imposed as a sop to public opinion in the hope that a public deeply supportive of the death penalty would be appeased if they thought murderers would be locked up for the rest of their lives.

As it is, the Home Secretary decides when murderers should be released. One would have to be remarkably naive to believe the Home Secretary's judgment in such matters to be superior to that of the trial judge.

The judges are perfectly capable of imposing the appropriate sentence in every individual case of murder. They are willing to do it and it is to the government's shame that it has whittled its majority in Parliament to stop this sensible reform.

The provocation reformers would be better occupied in tackling the Government on this issue than trying to exterminate horrible husbands.

● The author is a practising solicitor



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## Gorbachev is booked

CLIFFORD Chance is off to Moscow, at last. The firm intends to open the office in October to coincide with a conference on Soviet law, sponsored by University College London, the Union of Soviet Jurists and other bodies. The Europe-USSR Law & Cooperation Forum will bring together lawyers and academics to discuss economic change within a fast-evolving legal framework. Mikhail Gorbachev and Jacques Delors are the main speakers. However, whether Mr Gorbachev will still be president is a moot point, as is the question whether Soviet law will be relevant, now that the republics are establishing their own legal systems.

### Children power

THE idea of a children's ombudsman is nothing new but a Galbenian Foundation report written by Martin Rosenbaum and Peter Newell contains more detailed proposals than anything else put forward in more than 20 years. They say an ombudsman should be there principally to promote children's rights through influencing policy, conducting information and research and dealing with children's complaints. They

## INSIDE AND OUTS

propose, however, that the ombudsman's policy recommendations should not have the force of law. Bodies receiving the recommendations should be legally required to consider them properly but the authors argue that although legal enforceability would give the recommendations teeth, it would also be likely to provoke litigation and delaying tactics from bodies loath to comply. The ombudsman's office should not try to deal with individual complaints but should be able to help with exceptional cases and should employ at least one childcare solicitor. The office would also liaise with similar international organisations and make grants to self-advocacy organisations for children and young people.

### Marriage split

A HEARING in Delhi, which centres on the legality of a ten-year-old Indian girl's marriage to an elderly Saudi Arabian, is causing a political storm. A steward who saw the girl sobbing on an aircraft called the police. Although India has outlawed child marriages, many poor Indian families are said to sell their children to wealthy Middle Eastern men. The Saudi man's lawyer says the marriage is lawful under

Islamic law, and a 1937 British law, which granted Indian Muslims a separate legal code. The case highlights one of India's acute problems: what to do about the parallel legal system that operates for its 120 million Muslims.

### Jobs in the east

PERHAPS Britain's growing number of out-of-work lawyers should go east. Bulgaria, for example, despite having more than 300,000 unemployed, has an acute shortage of accountants and lawyers during its transition to a market economy.



### Poly pep-up

THE pressures on higher education institutions to respond to the commercial environment have led to Nabarro Nathanson's appointment as







Britain refuses legal status to transsexuals, a lawyer claims. Liz Hodgkinson reports

# The minority without real rights

Forty years ago, the first successful sex-change operation was performed. Tens of thousands of men and women have since undergone surgical alteration to be able to live as cosmetically acceptable members of their chosen gender.

But though transsexuals are no longer such a peculiar minority, their position in law — in this country at least — remains highly anomalous. They cannot marry, they have no employment protection and no legal status whatever in their chosen gender.

The inability of British transsexuals to marry in their new gender was upheld at the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg earlier this year, to the dismay of Caroline Cossey, the sex change model who brought the case, and her fellow transsexuals.

Today the subject, "Should sex changes be recognised in law as well as fact?" will be discussed at the Liberal Democrat conference in Bournemouth. The meeting, chaired by Alex Carlile, the Liberal Democrat MP for Montgomery, has been organised by Mark Rees, a female-to-male transsexual who has campaigned for law changes for 17 years.

Stephen Whittle, one of the speakers, is an academic lawyer researching at the unit for law and popular culture at Manchester polytechnic. He says: "For most transsexuals, the overwhelming concern is jobs. As the law stands,

they can be dismissed if their past is discovered — and they may have no legal redress, no recourse to an industrial tribunal or right to redundancy payments. Employers have an absolute right to dismiss such an employee on the ground that others might not like the situation. Any transsexual has to retire as a member of the original and not the present gender.

"At present, a transsexual's new status is recognised for certain purposes. A driving licence and passport for instance can be issued in the new gender. But these are all simply concessions made by the government and are not legally binding. They could be removed at any time."

The question of marriage is one that concerns many transsexuals. Until the April Ashley (Corbett v Corbett) case in 1971, transsexuals could have their birth certificate amended and marry legally in the new sex. Since Ashley's marriage was declared null and void, they can do neither.

Mr Whittle says: "Post-operative transsexuals do 'marry', but if for any reason one partner takes the matter to court, they will find it is not legal. If, for instance, a couple where one is transsexual would like to adopt children they will discover that their marriage is illegal and they are not allowed to adopt. It is also almost impossible to get custody of any children born before the operation. Where one partner is transsexual, a will can be



challenged on the grounds of status."

There are other horrors as well. If transsexuals commit a crime, they can be sent to the prison of their original gender, put in solitary confinement and refused hormone treatment. A male-to-female transsexual cannot, in the eyes of the law, be raped, because she is still considered male.

Mr Whittle believes there is a simple solution. "In Germany," he says, "since 1983, anybody going through the procedure can apply to the courts to be recognised in the new role, and go through a small committee. Each case is assessed on its merits. The outcome is that total legal status may be granted in the new role, which will be permanent. If a transsexual then decides to marry, that marriage is fully legal, as it is now in most other European countries."

Why is Britain holding out? Mr

Whittle believes the reasons lie in the Ashley case. "Judges here talk in terms of precedent, and every other transsexual since has had to endure the consequences."

The argument has also been put forward that transsexuals may be fraudulently passing themselves off as something they are not. Mr Whittle comments: "For my research, I have contacted hundreds of transsexuals to see how many have ever been in trouble with the law, tried to marry as a 'real' member of the new gender or committed violent crimes. Almost none has. Most do their utmost to blend quietly with society. A bill needs to be drafted. It would affect the lives of nobody except transsexuals and for the first time, give them rights."

• The writer is the author of *Body-shock: The Truth About the Sex Change* to be published by Virgin on September 19 at £10

## How you measure the merits of your lawyer

Lay people find performance hard to assess. Two new publications offer suggestions



Value for money: Roger Parry

competitiveness] then it should have a low priority in spending resources."

The confusion over quality is whether it implies the best service or, by contrast, the minimum that one is entitled to expect from a competent provider. Hodgart Temporal says that for large commercial firms "imposing a systems approach, such as BS5750, has an automatic demotivating impact and, in addition, it does not provide a context, a purpose or a meaning."

The consultancy says: "Hence, fairly quickly people come to see all of the imposed systems as ends in themselves, meaningless tasks imposed by 'them up there'."

Alan Hodgart, a consultant with the company, concedes, however, that for many high street firms that do legal aid work there is a case for being able to show that systems

have been established to ensure that letters will be properly filed and that staff are adequately trained. BS5750 will not be so much a "competitive advantage" as a mark of reliability.

The client, however, still does not know how to judge quality at the top end of the market. A small number of regular buyers, such as bankers and chartered surveyors, have the knowledge and experience to make an informed choice but most clients have to make a leap of confidence that most large law firms will be technically competent.

Decisions about quality will, therefore, be made on the basis of other criteria, among which, Mr Parry says, value for money is going to be increasingly important.

Mr Parry says: "When clients cannot discriminate between law firms on technical quality they will look at other factors. In the United States there is growing interest in audits, where legally qualified accountants go into a law firm and analyse costs. Although no two jobs are identical it is possible over a period of time and a number of examples to see the relative speed and efficiency of a firm and to make a judgment based on that."

As a result, management skills in the longer term will become even more important. Because competing firms have similar levels of skill, the question will be how cost-effectively they deploy those skills. "Good management will not save a mediocre firm of lawyers," Mr Parry says, "but bad management could bring down an otherwise good firm."

EDWARD FENNELL  
• People Businesses, by Roger Parry, is published by Business Books at £18.99. Thinking Quality Service is available free from Hodgart Temporal (081-528 9875)

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## Court of Appeal

Law Report September 10 1991

Queen's Bench Division

## Curious result of using 'term of years'

EW P Ltd v Moore

Before Lord Justice Bingham, Lord Justice Staughton and Lord Justice Nolan

[Judgment August 9]

The meaning of the words "term of years" had given rise to difficulties and the curious result followed from the use of those words in section 1 of the Agricultural Holdings Act 1986 that a tenancy of agricultural land for a fixed term of 23 months was not protected by the Act, although tenancies of two years or more and tenancies from year to year, including lettings for an interest less than a tenancy from year to year, and even licences, received protection.

The Court of Appeal so held in dismissing an appeal by Julian Moore against a decision of Judge Michael Evans, QC on August 9, 1990, at Haverfordwest County Court, requiring him to give up the possession of Scollock, Bill farm, Ambleston, Haverfordwest.

Mr Terence Cullen, QC and Miss Fernanda Pirie for the defendant; Mr Jonathan Gaunt, QC and Mr Timothy W. E. Evans for the plaintiff.

LORD JUSTICE NOLAN said that the defendant claimed that his tenancy of the farm for a fixed term of 23 months was a business tenancy protected by Part 2 of the Landlord and Tenant Act 1954, as it was neither a tenancy from year to year nor for a term of years and was therefore outside the terms of the Agricultural Holdings Act. He claimed that he was entitled to remain in possession until it was determined by notice under the 1954 Act.

The plaintiff's case was that

the tenancy was not protected by the 1954 Act as it was an agricultural tenancy excluded by section 43(1)(a) of that Act.

An agricultural holding was defined by section 1(1) of the Agricultural Holdings Act 1986 as "land comprised in a contract for an agricultural tenancy". The crucial phrase for the present appeal was "contract of tenancy". That was defined by section 1(5) as "a letting of land, or agreement for letting land, for a term of years or from year to year".

It was common ground that the tenancy here was not a tenancy from year to year. But was it a tenancy for a term of years?

The plaintiff and the judge said it was. The defendant said it was not. If the defendant was right it was not an agricultural tenancy and was protected by the 1954 Act.

Their Lordships had been referred to "venerable authority for the proposition that 'term of years' meant two or more years: see *The Bishop of Bath's Case* ((1605) 6 Co Rep 35) and *Bacon's Abridgement* ((1740) Vol 3).

In the Court of Appeal, in *Land Settlement Association v Carr* ([1944] 1 KB 657, 662) Lord Justice Scott had said: "In *The Bishop of Bath's Case* it was made clear that no time shorter than two years could constitute a term of years".

If the plaintiff and the judge were right the curious result followed that the tenancy was not protected at all. The 1986 Act protected tenancies for a term of two years or more under section 3.

It also protected tenancies from year to year, a phrase

which was extended by section 2(2) to cover, as a general rule, lettings for an interest less than a tenancy from year to year and even licences. Tenancies for a period of between one and two years remained wholly unprotected.

In *Gladstone v Bower* ([1960] 1 QB 170, 179) Mr Justice Diplock, after rejecting the argument that an 18-month tenancy was for a lesser interest than a tenancy from year to year and referring to the comments of counsel who had contended that such a result was contrary to the plain scheme of the Act, namely that all occupiers of agricultural land, save those expressly excluded, should be entitled to remain in possession until their occupation was determined by notice to quit, said: "If it were permissible to speculate... as to the intentions of Parliament, I should be tempted to guess that Parliament simply overlooked the case of a lease for a fixed term of between one and two years".

He had held that the tenancy for 18 months was "a tenancy of an agricultural holding... being a holding of agricultural land comprised in the contract of tenancy for a term of years... and thus excluded from the operation of Part 2 of the Landlord and Tenant Act 1954".

His decision was upheld by the Court of Appeal ([1960] 2 QB 384, 395-396) where Lord Justice Devlin, agreeing with Mr Justice Diplock's interpretation of the Agricultural Holdings Act, said: "... this is simply a *coram omnia* and... the Act is defective".

The law remained the same today under the 1986 Act save for a further amendment which

now appeared as section 36(2)(b).

It was contended for the plaintiff that in the context of the 1986 Act there was no difficulty about construing the phrase "term of years". It included any term in excess of a year. If that were not so there could be no purpose whatever in limiting the operation of section 3 to tenancies for two years or more.

Moreover, section 36(2)(b) was quite explicit. It dealt with a "holding" and therefore with a contract of tenancy, for a fixed term of more than one but less than two years.

It had been submitted for the plaintiff that the only authority confining the common law use of the phrase "term of years" to two years or more was *The Bishop of Bath's Case* and reference had been made to the full report from which it was clear that the crucial words were *obiter* and unconcerned with the subject matter of the decision which related solely to the commencement date of a lease.

Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce v Bhattacharya

A judgment debtor against whom a *Mareva* injunction had been made, restraining him, *inter alia*, from causing or permitting any of his assets within the jurisdiction to be sold, charged, disposed of, or otherwise dealt with, save in or for the value of his assets within the jurisdiction exceeds (a stated sum) was liable to be punished for contempt of court

His Lordship considered that the relevant passages in the *Land Settlement Association* case were *obiter*.

The court had been informed that since the decision in *Gladstone v Bower* there had been at least 11 measures passed in which a decision to amend the law could have been taken. It was accepted that there were difficult aspects both to the decision in *Gladstone v Bower* and to the law with which it dealt but it could not be accepted that those who framed the 1986 Act remained in ignorance of it and failed to take it into account.

The re-enactment of what was now section 3 and the enactment of section 36(2)(b) must, in his Lordship's judgment, be taken to have established its acceptance as part of our law. He would therefore dismiss the appeal.

Lord Justice Bingham and Lord Justice Staughton agreed. Solicitors: Price & Son, Haverfordwest; G. F. Lodder & Sons, Ellesmere.

## Injunction contempt

If he borrowed money to acquire assets which he then charged to a third party unless, the burden of proof being upon him, he could establish that the value of his assets within the jurisdiction exceeded that stated sum.

Mr Justice Harman so held in the Chancery Division on July 30 in finding Manohardass Gordhass Bhattacharya in contempt of orders made by himself on October 3, 1990 and by Mr Justice Millett on March 1, 1991 and fining him £10,000.

## Unreasonable treatment of convicted murderer

Regina v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte Cox

Before Mr Justice Popplewell [Judgment September 3]

The Secretary of State for the Home Department acted unreasonably in finding that the behaviour of the applicant convicted murderer in a pre-release hostel and offences of dishonesty he committed while on licence were sufficient to cancel his provisional release date from prison.

Mr Justice Popplewell so held in the Queen's Bench Division in granting *certiorari* in an application for judicial review brought by John Cox against the decision of the secretary of state on January 17, 1991 to cancel the applicant's provisional release date and return him to a closed prison.

Mr Timothy Ows for the applicant; Mr David Pannick for the secretary of state.

MR JUSTICE POPPLEWELL said that on April 29, 1971 the applicant, aged 17, was convicted of murder. He was released on life licence on March 25, 1983.

From then until July 17, 1989 he lived in the community with no problem. On that date he was arrested and charged with making threats to kill his neighbour.

His life licence was revoked by the secretary of state and the parole board confirmed that decision and did not recommend his immediate release. The criminal charges arising out of the events of July 1989

were dismissed and the secretary of state referred the case back to the parole board who recommended that the applicant be released subject to a satisfactory release plan, that his licence should contain special conditions prohibiting him from contacting either his ex-girlfriend, with whom he had earlier had a dispute, or his neighbour and requiring him to reside where directed by his supervising officer.

On April 17, 1990 he was transferred to a pre-release hostel and told that he would be released on September 21, 1990 subject to his continued good conduct.

On September 15 he was arrested driving a car with a

fraudulent tax disc and in possession of a small quantity of cannabis.

He pleaded guilty to those offences and was transferred to prison pending a review of his suitability. The secretary of state decided to cancel his provisional release date.

In his Lordship's judgment, the conclusion of the secretary of state that there was a risk of danger to the public requiring the applicant to be in a closed prison for two to three years was highly questionable. It was a perverse conclusion and *Wednesbury* unreasonable ([1948] 1 KB 223).

Solicitors: Powell Spencer & Partners, Kilburn; Treasury Solicitor.

## Committee entitled to closed session

Regina v Kensington and Chelsea London Borough Council, Ex parte Stoop

A planning committee meeting at which both the developer and objectors were present was entitled to go into closed session under section 100A(4) of and paragraph 12 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, as inserted by section 1 of and Schedule 1 to the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985, to hear the advice of a legal officer on the likelihood of a successful appeal by the developer and costs being awarded against the

council if planning permission was refused.

Mr Justice Otton so held in the Queen's Bench Division on July 23 when dismissing an application by Nicholas John Stoop for an order of *certiorari* to quash a decision of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea to grant planning permission for a development at the Chelsea College site.

MR JUSTICE OTTON said it had clearly not been in the council's interests to hear advice about the likelihood of an appeal succeeding in the presence of the potential applicants.

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# Little start, big future

**Derek Morgan reports on an agency that matches graduates to small-company jobs and the wider work experience they offer**

Some small companies find it hard to attract the attention of the best graduates, but help is at hand. Graduate Employment Matching Service has been set up specifically to build bridges between small firms and students in higher education. A company notifies the service of a vacancy, and suitable graduates on file are then matched to it, according to the type of work offered, the degree required, career sought, and job location.

Companies pay an annual fee of £100 and in return the service matches as many vacancies as the company has. The service, based at Loughborough university of technology, has a register of 400 companies and a database of 600 graduates. Last year it forwarded 1,750 names to small companies.

Chris McEvoy, who runs the service, says that though the recession has affected recruitment, smaller companies appreciate the potential offered by graduates. "Young companies going into Europe need more professional expertise to make their operations cost-effective," he says. "Companies wanting to export realise they need staff with foreign language skills."

Small firms can be intimidated by the prospect of employing a graduate, and one way of giving the company and potential recruit the chance to have a look at one another before making a full commitment, is a programme called graduate gateway. This provides a training placement of up to six months with a company working on a specific project. Unemployed

graduates receive the employment training allowance in addition to their state benefits.

Loughborough is one of several centres which runs gateway programmes. David Cooper, the programme coordinator, advises graduates interested in working for a small company. A social sciences graduate, he previously worked as a quality assurance manager with Bonnington Plastics, which supplies tubes to the engineering industry and hoses to garden centres. "I was the only graduate there," he says. "In a small company you have to be able to do other people's jobs. I was also involved in production and sales."

After leaving a polytechnic, Mr Cooper says he was not really interested in joining a large firm. "I wanted to find out what I was good at, to get experience of a wide range of functions, and you can do that only in a smaller company. Moving as a trainee from department to department in a large organisation does not give you this experience," he says.

Mr Cooper says graduate gateway is a good way into employment. "Gateway projects are interesting and well-supported by

university staff, who monitor training on-site and provide graduates with technical back-up from campus," he says.

On a Loughborough-run programme earlier this year, all seven graduates on placement received offers of permanent jobs.

Small companies do not usually take exhibition stands at graduate recruitment fairs, but this year Nottingham polytechnic and a student industrial society hosted a special recruitment fair featuring smaller firms.

Twenty companies participated, including computing, accounting, construction and engineering, and student response was good enough for many employers to say they wished it could be an annual event.

Companies at the fair included the semi-autonomous divisions of big organisations, such as Ruston Gas Turbines of Lincoln, which is part of GEC-Alsthom, and the scientific equipment division of the Fisons Group, in Loughborough.

Alan Picton, Nottingham polytechnic's careers adviser, says: "Quite a number of final-year students say they do not want to work for a big corporation." He

tells students that "not all large organisations are like Megacorp plc - some are a collection of smaller businesses".

He points out that a household name does look good on your curriculum vitae, and that it may be difficult for student job-seekers to spot a winner among small companies. However, he acknowledges that some large businesses tend to be impenetrable, and recruitment fairs for the small to medium companies can only help.

Graduates joining a smaller firm may get:

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Shell Technology Enterprise Programme (STEP) will offer summer vacation placements in 1992 for undergraduates to work on projects at companies with up to 100 employees. Projects might involve fund-raising, design, stock control, market research, or working on a computer database. Students receive a training allowance of £100 a week.

Further information: Graduate employment matching service, enterprise centre, business school, university of technology, Loughborough LE11 2TU. Shell technology, enterprise programme (STEP), Shell enterprise unit, Shell UK Ltd, Shell-Mex House, Strand, London WC2R 0DX. For details of graduate gateway enquire at your local training and enterprise council.



PIPING UP FOR THE VALUE OF ON-SITE TRAINING

ALISON Edwards, above, of Grantham, Lincolnshire, has recently been appointed marketing coordinator at B & H (Leicestershire) in Loughborough. The company employs 150 people and makes plastic pipe systems for road drainage and cable ducting. Its main customers are local authorities, civil engineering contractors, and the gas, water and electricity industries. Her job involves coordinating all advertising and marketing strategies with the company's publicity company, and researching potential new markets, including exports.

Miss Edwards obtained a higher national diploma in business and finance at Newcastle polytechnic in

1989, had a 12-month working holiday in Australia and on her return joined the graduate gateway programme at Loughborough university.

Her training placement at B & H started last December with a market research project into the commercial viability of a new product. "I enjoyed the work, got along with the people and I was offered a job in April," she says.

Miss Edwards believes that in a smaller company she gets "faster, earlier responsibility. I am in daily working contact with the managing director and the management team. There is a family environment here. We all feel very involved with the future success of the firm."

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Further information and recruitment package available in confidence from Ron Simpson, Director, East Midlands Employers' Organisation, The Belvoir Suite, Council Offices, Nottingham Road, Wotton Mowbray, Leicestershire LE13 0UL. Tel. (0664) 410250.

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## PUBLIC HEALTH CARE

Take up the challenge at the Heart of North Derbyshire

### GENERAL MANAGER

Negotiable to £43k + Car

This is an exceptional opportunity to become the driving force behind a complex organisation, which employs 2,800 staff in Community Based Services and eight hospitals.

Our Community Health Care Service, with a budget exceeding £38m per annum, provides a comprehensive range of patient services to the 365,000 people of North Derbyshire. Based in Chesterfield on the edge of the delightful Peak District the Health Authority is proud of its record of innovation.

You will be of graduate calibre with proven leadership skills and experience of working at a Senior level in the N.H.S. You will have a positive commitment to the delivery of quality services to patients.

For an information pack contact:  
Personnel Department, The Strubberries, 46, Newbold Road, Chesterfield, S41 7PL.  
Tel. (0246) 200131 ext. 150.

C.V.'s to be returned by 30th September, 1991.

An open day for long-listed candidates to be held on 4th October, 1991. Interviews for short-listed candidates to be held on 16th and 17th October, 1991.

North Derbyshire Health Authority  
Where Quality Counts



## PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS



### WEST YORKSHIRE Waste Management

#### MANAGING DIRECTOR (Designate)

Circa £55,000 plus car

The five district Councils within West Yorkshire are committed to forming a Local Authority Waste Disposal Company to undertake county wide waste disposal functions as required under the Environmental Protection Act.

The proposed 'arms length' company is a new concept within the waste disposal field, and we are looking for a Managing Director capable of establishing a viable company to operate within

a commercial and competitive environment. This company will provide waste disposal facilities for a population of 2.1 million, with an annual turnover likely to be in excess of £20 million. Candidates should possess commercial drive and experience at senior management level. Knowledge and experience in the public or private sector of waste disposal industry would be an advantage.

For further information and application forms please contact the Chief Personnel and Management Services Officer, 8 St. John's North, Wakefield, WF1 3QA (Telephone 0924 296780) forms should be returned quoting post reference number LAWDC1 by 27 September 1991.

## LEGAL

### GWENT MAGISTRATES' COURTS COMMITTEE PRINCIPAL COURT CLERK

Are you legally qualified?

Do you have experience of clerking Magistrates' courts?

Do you want to work in an attractive part of the country with civilised living conditions and a good and extensive road and rail network in place?

If so, why not have a crack at a newly created post which is both interesting and challenging and which will involve the supervision of a team of court clerks as well as sharing responsible administrative duties.

National conditions of service apply.

Salary: £23,163 - £25,923 p.a.

Interested? Then please send your written application to Mr. S. C. D. HULME, Clerk to the Justices, Magistrates' Clerk's Office, Fentonville, Newport, Gwent. NP23 5XQ to include details of your qualifications, experience and the names of two referees by 20th September, 1991.

## HAMPSHIRE

### Education Resource Management

A new post to meet a new challenge

Salary £41,670-£45,834 p.a.

Hampshire is a progressive, independently minded County Council which is totally committed to giving its 730 schools and colleges the freedom - and comprehensive support - necessary to manage their own budgets effectively.

To help us meet this challenge we have created one of the top second tier jobs in the public sector. We require a HEAD OF RESOURCES who will assume a broad range of responsibilities. These cover the allocation, monitoring and control of a £600 million budget and leading professional teams managing financial services, local management, information systems and the client side of contracted-out services.

This is a vitally important and high profile position which will impact on every facet of education within Hampshire.

Proven leadership and communication skills at a high level should be supported by significant financial awareness gained in a multi-disciplinary environment. Candidates should be numerate and determined - not necessarily a qualified Accountant nor Educationalist - and will be expected to achieve rapid quantifiable results within a complex service.

Substantial benefits including a leased car and 100% relocation expenses are available. For an information Pack and Application Form please contact, Central Personnel Unit, The Castle, Winchester SO23 8UJ. Tel: 0962 847690 (Answerphone). Closing date for applications 25th September 1991.

We pursue a policy of equality of opportunity. Applicants are particularly welcome from people with disabilities.

## EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

## LEGAL

### UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER FACULTY OF LAW

#### LECTURESHIP IN LAW

Applications are invited from candidates with interest in any field of law for a Lectureship at Grade A or B, tenable for five years. It is hoped to appoint with effect from 1 January 1992, or as soon as possible thereafter.

Applicants should have a good honours degree in law, and preferably a postgraduate degree. The successful candidate will be expected to teach a range of subjects, to engage in research, and to carry out administrative duties assigned by the Head of Department.

This is a re-advertisement. Previous applicants need not re-apply.

Initial salary, dependent on the qualifications and experience of the Lecturer appointed, will be within the salary for Lecturer Grade A £12,690 to £17,593 p.a. or Grade B £18,328 to £23,427 p.a. (1 April 1991 interim scales).

Application forms and further information from the Staffing Office (Academic Appointments), University of Leicester, University Road, Leicester LE1 7RH, telephone (0533) 522439. Closing date for applications: 4 October 1991.

### WORLD ASSOCIATION OF GIRL GUIDES AND GIRL SCOUTS is seeking a GUIDER-IN-CHARGE PAX LODGE WORLD CENTRE



The Guider-in-Charge has full responsibility for the overall management of Pax Lodge, including facilities, staff business management, property and programme. She must be able to create and maintain a special atmosphere conducive to international friendship and understanding, as Pax Lodge welcomes people from all over the world.

Considerable previous experience and proven ability in management and administration, either through Girl Guiding/Girl Scouting or business, is essential. A university degree and/or an equivalent qualification, and experience of residential work are highly desirable. The successful candidate will be mature, have international work experience and an understanding of Girl Guiding/Girl Scouting as a youth movement and have demonstrated leadership and interpersonal skills.

Contract of employment is for three years, renewable. Salary is under review. Full board and lodging are provided, and residence at Pax Lodge is required. Closing date for applications is 1st October 1991. Interviews will be held late October 1991. Appointment to commence from 1st February 1992. To apply, please send full curriculum vitae to: Mrs Patricia Noble, Chairman, Pax Lodge Committee, 190 Goldsmith Terrace, London NW6.

### CIPA Re-advertisement CENTRE FOR POLICY ON AGEING DIRECTOR

The Centre for Policy on Ageing is seeking a Director to lead the Centre's research, which provides a platform for research, policy and practice in ageing issues. The Director will be responsible for the Centre's overall management, including financial, administrative and public relations. The successful candidate will have a strong academic background in ageing studies and a proven ability to lead a team of researchers and to engage with policy-makers and the public. The Centre is based at the University of London and offers a competitive salary and excellent benefits. Applications should be sent to: The Director, Centre for Policy on Ageing, 100 Brookings Drive, London WC1E 6BT. Closing date: 15 September 1991.

## THE TIMES

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# US Open title may put Edberg on the way to a monopoly

FROM ANDREW LONGMORE, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT, IN NEW YORK

NOT since John McEnroe annihilated Jimmy Connors at Wimbledon in 1984 has a grand slam final turned into such a parade of one man's talent. The New York crowd came to watch Jim Courier, the man who had ended Connors's joyride and not lost a set in the tournament, muscle and bustle his way to the US Open title. They left, 122 minutes later, having seen a great artist at work. "This is the worst beating I have taken this year," Courier said after his 6-2, 6-4, 6-0 defeat. "But there was nothing I could do."

Edberg's fifth grand slam title, and his first off grass—he won the Australian Open twice, before it was played on hard courts, and Wimbledon in 1988 and 1990—opens up the possibility of a domination most believed had ended with Ivan Lendl's decline. Coming into the Open, seven different players had won the last seven grand slams. Courier, Sampras and Stich were the names in the ascendancy and, though Boris Becker and Edberg were seeded one and two, neither was really regarded as the favourite for the title. Now, a fortnight later, the sequence has ended and Edberg, like the women's champion, Monica Seles, has a clear road ahead.

Becker is suffering from an injury that has plagued him throughout the year and Sampras seems happy to go back to the ranks and, like Agassi, is in danger of dropping out of the top ten. Even Michael Stich, the Wimbledon champion who came into the US Open almost invincible, found the distractions of Flushing Meadows too much—just as Becker and Edberg had for many years.

"It is up to Stefan now," Tony Pickard, Edberg's faithful Sancho Panza, said. "He really stamped his authority on the game here. You see what he's done to the French Open champion and in the final. If he wants to, he can put himself away from these guys."

Defeated here last year in the first round, Edberg should have secured his place at No. 1 until the end of the year

at least. But the manner of Edberg's victory, reminiscent of the drubbing he gave Mats Wilander in the semi-final of the Australian Open last year, was more significant than the victory itself. Just as much as Connors, whose flat-hitting style so confused opponents brought up on topspin, Edberg produced a brand of elegant serve-and-volley tennis that, Sampras apart, many on this side of the Atlantic had long regarded as obsolete.

Up and down the country, there are a thousand budding Couriers, their games based on huge rackets of enormous power and the ability to hit more balls harder than anyone else. That is not to denigrate Courier, who has developed from a journeyman into a considerable player this year, but to say that the game should be as much about touch and timing as power.

Elegantly, gently, but with utter certainty, Edberg showed that and so did Leander Paes, of India, who won the US junior title, beating a Moroccan, Karim Alami, in an all-third world final that should make a few Australian and American, not to mention British, coaches scratch their heads.

The one uncertainty about Edberg's future is the strength of his desire to stay on top. He does not need the \$400,000 US Open champion's cheque nor any of the other riches the

game manufactures and, though only 25, he has been at the top of the game for six years. "It is up to him," Pickard says. "He can't produce that sort of performance day in, day out. But things can slip and if the body is not right, the mind's not right."

Neither was quite right in the early stages of the US Open as Edberg struggled against ordinary opponents. Not until he beat Michael Chang in three sets under lights in the fourth round did the fine-tuning of Edberg's delicate game begin.

He did not lose a set thereafter and never looked like doing so against Courier. His serving was solid, his volleying at times breathtaking, notably when he produced a stunning stop volley off a full-blooded Courier return as he served for the second set, and his nerve held much better than it had in the Australian Open or at Wimbledon earlier in the year.

It was a display of complete mastery, and the American, who will lead his country into the semi-final of the Davis Cup next week, had no answer. Pollard won the third set in 25 minutes. "It was the best match I have ever played," Edberg said and he is not inclined to exaggerate.

But, Edberg's excellence apart, the abiding memory of the 1991 US Open will be Connors, who has shown that dedication and talent are more important than age and, at a time when too many of the younger players regard the game as a chore, that enjoyment is still more important than both.

RESULTS: Men's singles: Final: S Edberg (Swe) 6-2, 6-4, 6-0; 2nd round: J Connors (US) 6-2, 6-4, 6-0; 3rd round: J Connors (US) 6-2, 6-4, 6-0; 4th round: J Connors (US) 6-2, 6-4, 6-0; 5th round: J Connors (US) 6-2, 6-4, 6-0; 6th round: J Connors (US) 6-2, 6-4, 6-0; 7th round: J Connors (US) 6-2, 6-4, 6-0; 8th round: J Connors (US) 6-2, 6-4, 6-0; 9th round: J Connors (US) 6-2, 6-4, 6-0; 10th round: J Connors (US) 6-2, 6-4, 6-0; 11th round: J Connors (US) 6-2, 6-4, 6-0; 12th round: J Connors (US) 6-2, 6-4, 6-0; 13th round: J Connors (US) 6-2, 6-4, 6-0; 14th round: J Connors (US) 6-2, 6-4, 6-0; 15th round: J Connors (US) 6-2, 6-4, 6-0; 16th round: J Connors (US) 6-2, 6-4, 6-0; 17th round: J Connors (US) 6-2, 6-4, 6-0; 18th round: J Connors (US) 6-2, 6-4, 6-0; 19th round: J Connors (US) 6-2, 6-4, 6-0; 20th round: J Connors (US) 6-2, 6-4, 6-0; 21st round: J Connors (US) 6-2, 6-4, 6-0; 22nd round: J Connors (US) 6-2, 6-4, 6-0; 23rd round: J Connors (US) 6-2, 6-4, 6-0; 24th round: J Connors (US) 6-2, 6-4, 6-0; 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# Manchester seeks crucial government support



Dick Palmer: experience needed at meeting

By DAVID MILLER

THE Manchester committee that is bidding to host the 2000 Olympic Games has a critical meeting tomorrow morning with John Major at Downing Street. The prime minister's response to budget issues that will be put before him may well determine whether Manchester continues with its second Olympic campaign or withdraws from the bidding.

All the evidence available to Bob Scott, Manchester's chairman, indicates that the majority of rivals will enjoy substantial backing from central government. This is obviously true of Beijing's bid, and recent weeks have revealed the extent of support that will be available to Brasilia, Sydney and, perhaps most im-

portant of all, as the chief European opposition, Berlin.

There is, I understand, agreement from Bonn to underwrite substantially the bid by Berlin, never mind the escalating cost to German finances of the East-West amalgamation. All Olympic host city bids are now as much national as regional - Atlanta apart - and unless Mr Major can offer Manchester some serious financial backing, Scott might advise his local sponsors from both private - Manchester Airport - and public sectors that it is inadvisable to continue.

Chris Patten, who, as secretary of state for the environment, attended the International Olympic Committee (IOC) session in Tokyo last year - where Athens,

Manchester and the rest were defeated by Atlanta - is in a position to advise Mr Major of the dimensions of such campaigning. It will then be for Mr Major to weigh the cost against the fruits of possible victory. For any city that does succeed, the long-term benefits, evident since Tokyo staged the Games of 1964, are immeasurable. Greece is still attempting to live off the legacy of 3,000 years ago.

Scott will, in effect, tell the prime minister tomorrow: "Either we do this properly, or not at all." Mr Major, who has conventional sporting sympathies, will understand better than most British prime ministers - not least his immediate predecessor - what success can mean in both commercial and moral prestige.

Britain has one important card to throw into the Olympic ring for 2000: that in modern sporting terms, the Olympic movement owes far more to British foundations, traditions and principals of sportsmanship (however eroded) than any other nation; far more, say, than it does to Greece.

It will be helpful tomorrow if the British Olympic Association (BOA) has arranged for Dick Palmer, its general secretary, to attend. An invitation was extended initially by No 10 to Sir Arthur Gold, the BOA chairman, who unfortunately is prevented from attending by being in hospital. He passed the invitation to the vice-chairwoman, Eileen Grey. While in no way wishing to impugn Mrs Grey's creden-

tials - a redoubtable campaigner whose energies almost exclusively gained Olympic admission for women's cycling in 1984 - the broad-based experience of Palmer would provide valuable information to Mr Major.

One factor that Manchester should consider - and few candidate cities do beforehand - is who would be chairman of the organising committee should they succeed in the voting in Monte Carlo in 1993. Domestic infighting is common in Olympic cities, following election, among the rival interests of four factions: local industry and business, which often leads the bidding initiative; local politicians, i.e. the mayor or governor; the national Olympic committee; and national government.

When the businessmen have done the hard work, the politicians usually want to take over. It happened in Barcelona. Leopoldo Rodes, a banker, and Ignacio Masferrer, a lawyer-diplomat now unhappily seriously ill, led Barcelona's challenge, only to be deposed following victory by Pasqual Maragall, the socialist mayor. It happened in Atlanta, where Maynard Jackson, the mayor, attempted a takeover but was frustrated by William Payne, chief executive of the bidding committee. And it is happening in Nagano, Japan, where Soichiro Yoshida, the guiding light, is fighting for survival on the organising committee. It would be better if the IOC could tighten up its

charter - and the Games contract - now that the stakes on all sides are so massive. The financial chaos of Montreal, which stemmed from the over-ambitious Mayor Drapeau and nearly killed the Games, could re-emerge in the event of a serious rift between local and national government after a city's election. It could happen in Manchester.

Guarding against this factor, Juan Antonio Samaranch, the IOC president, is telling Nagano that it must have equal representation of the city, the NOC and the government. Tom Welch, the leader of Salt Lake City's bid that lost to Nagano, has said that if he leads another campaign he will have a contract with the city that, if successful, he will continue in office.

State of pitches may influence outcome

## Warwickshire defend their track record

By ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

IT IS being said that the most influential character in the outcome of the Britannic Assurance county championship may not be a player at all but the man who prepares Warwickshire's pitches and, by coincidence, was last season doing the same job for Essex.

Andy Atkinson, the groundsman concerned, will justifiably claim limited responsibility for an inherited problem. The Warwickshire club, through its secretary, David Heath, will go further. Heath said yesterday that any suggestion that the title might be decided by the dubious character of the Edgbaston wicket was "emotive hogwash, and probably libellous".

The fact remains, however, that county cricket was alive with uncompromising stories of the conditions on the Test ground in Birmingham long before the championship match against Worcestershire, two weeks ago, which suffered a pitch Heath agrees was unsatisfactory.

As the penultimate round of fixtures begins today, Essex hold a ten-point advantage over Warwickshire, their only realistic rivals for the title. Derbyshire, who trail by a further 17 points, and Surrey,

by 21, will be confined to place-money unless the top two stall unexpectedly.

It is conceivable that the race will be over come Friday but, for that to occur, Essex must win on the notoriously doctile pitch at Leicester and Warwickshire must fail, against Northamptonshire, on the pitch which has been one of the season's controversial issues. Doctile, it is not.

Putting the case for the defence yesterday, Heath pointed out that the club relaid five pitches in the middle of its square last winter. "This obviously limited our choice somewhat, but until the Worcestershire game, 90 per cent of our wickets were marked 'good' in the un-

pires' report, which is the only recognised criteria."

Heath did admit that the pitch used for the Fourth Test Match against West Indies had caused the club concern and that, in general, those on the East, or Raebank side of the ground, had been the best. Significantly, the initial intention to use a pitch on the western side for today's game has been dropped following the umpires' "poor" verdict on the Worcestershire pitch; a new pitch has now been prepared on the Raebank side.

Atkinson merits sympathy, for his stock was deservedly high after several years of preparing the county's best pitches, at Chelmsford. Warwickshire recruited him last winter and he has not yet had time to alter the chronic failings of the Edgbaston square. There is unavoidable irony in the fact that Essex finished runners-up in the last two seasons, partly because they failed to win enough games on their true home pitches; now, if they are to fail again, it is to some degree due to the pitches prepared, however unwittingly, by the same man at Edgbaston.

Andy Lloyd, Warwickshire's personal captain, is in a dilemma. Having steered his team so far on their strength of seam bowling, he is understandably reluctant to change course when the tide is within reach. The Worcestershire fixture has been a warning, and the captain knows that another inadequate pitch may be marked one point lower, potentially costing them 25 points and the title.

□ Alec Stewart has not broken the thumb he injured during the NatWest Trophy final on Saturday. The Surrey and England batsman, hurt while keeping wicket, had an x-ray yesterday this morning which revealed a small crack just above the knuckle.

	P	W	L	D	Pts (Max)
Essex (2)	20	9	5	6	284 (312)
Warwickshire (5)	20	8	7	5	254 (302)
Derbyshire (18)	20	8	8	4	237 (286)
Surrey (3)	20	8	8	4	236 (281)

### REMAINING MATCHES

WARWICKSHIRE: Today: Northamptonshire (Edgbaston). Sept 17: Somerset (Trenton).  
ESSEX: Today: Leicestershire (Leicester). Sept 17: Middlesex (Chelmsford).  
DERBYSHIRE: Today: Nottinghamshire (Derby). Sept 17: Yorkshire (Chesterfield).  
SURREY: Today: Gloucestershire (Lord's). Sept 17: Lancashire (Old Trafford).



Golden charge: Stark leads the way home for Britain on Glenburnie

## Stark's ride is perfect for British team

From JENNY MACARTHUR IN PUNCHESTOWN

IAN Stark and the Edinburgh Woolen Mill's Glenburnie won a richly deserved individual gold medal after a faultless show jumping round at the Heineken European three-day event championships here in County Kildare yesterday.

Although Stark has won three individual silver medals, this was the first gold medal for the former Civil Servant, aged 37, who has been the backbone of the British team since 1984. "It was the longest ride of my life," he said after jumping his clear round yesterday.

His performance, watched by his wife, Jenny and their two children, sealed an overwhelming British victory reminiscent, in its completeness, of the 1985 and 1989 triumphs at Burghley. Britain captured the team gold medal by a distance, for the fourth successive occasion, in addition to all three individual medals.

Richard Walker and Jacana, who paved the way for the victory with his outstanding cross-country round, retained their overnight position with a clear round to take the individual silver medal - 22 years after he last rode for the team when he also won the silver.

Karen Straker and Get Smart who, two years ago, saw the bronze medal slip from their grasp in the showjumping made no mistake this time and, after a polished clear round, secured their first individual medal.

The Irish, who more than fulfilled their team manager's instructions - issued before the cross-country - "to ride for their lives" took the silver medal some 330 points ahead of the French bronze medal winners.

Their best performance came from Mairead Curran, on Water Colour, riding as individuals, whose dramatic leap from the top of fence 25 on the cross-country encapsulated the bravery of the host nation.

But yesterday belonged to Stark. Winner of the individual silver medal at the 1987 European championships, the 1988 Olympic Games and the

1990 world championships the popular, quietly spoken Scot had waited a long time for the gold medal.

His chances of achieving it were threatened when, days before the competition he had to substitute the injured Murphy himself for Glenburnie, his so-called "second horse."

But Glenburnie, a 13-year-old son of Precipice Wood, bred and owned by Captain Gerald (Bunny) Maitland-Crow was determined from the start to change his status.

His best dressage performance ever was followed by a clear and breath-taking cross-country round after which Stark needed physiotherapy for his aching neck and back.

Yesterday, despite an attack of nerves just beforehand, Stark rode a beautifully judged show-jumping round.

Although 39 horses out of the 47 starters completed Tommy Brennan's much praised cross-country course, the hard ground took its toll. Only three out of the original ten nations competing were left in the contest yesterday.

Spain, who had been in the bronze medal position after their bold cross-country performance, saw their chances of a first eventing medal disappear when Rosario Nardiz's Cune Shopin failed the final horse inspection after a questionable decision by the ground jury.

This lifted France to third place but with more than 300 marks separating them from Ireland and over 100 points separating the Irish from the British, the outcome of the team competition was virtually assured even before the show jumping.

Mary Thomson, the fourth British team member, withdrew before the show jumping because of an injured left knee sustained during her unlucky fall from King William at the penultimate fence on Sunday.

RESULTS: 1. Glenburnie (Stark, GB), 61 & 2. Jacana (Walker, GB), 74.5 & 3. Get Smart (Straker, GB), 87.5 & 4. Fable Dams (Curran, GB), 91 & 5. Water Colour (M Curran, GB), 102.5 & 6. Bitter's Autumn Grace (F Van Nieuwen, BEL), 112.5 & 7. Great Britain, 222.25 & 8. Ireland, 328.5 & 9. France 355.5

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## League's officials deny using force

By KEITH MACKLIN

THE Rugby Football League (RFL) has denied allegations that Maurice Oldroyd, the chief executive of the British Amateur Rugby League Association (Barla), was man-handled when he attempted to attend a meeting at the RFL headquarters in Leeds.

It had been claimed that force was used to eject Oldroyd from a meeting over the League's new academy for under-18 teams, a subject which has provoked an increasingly bitter confrontation between the professional and amateur branches of the code.

David Howes, the public affairs executive of the RFL, said: "Mr Oldroyd was not man-handled, nor was he physically assaulted. He attempted to break into a private meeting, to which he had not been invited, and was merely restrained from entering."

The incident will strengthen the case for taking up the Sports Council's offer to mediate by chairing an informal

meeting of senior officials, led by David Oxley, the RFL chief executive, and Oldroyd, his opposite number.

The dispute has gathered momentum rapidly since the announcement by the RFL in mid-summer that the academy would be established for under-18 teams attached to professional clubs.

This clashed head-on with Barla's own recruitment of youth teams and players, and it responded by announcing that any young amateur players who joined the academy teams would not be allowed to return to amateur clubs, and would forfeit their chances of achieving amateur international status.

This move so incensed RFL officials that last weekend they declared that amateur teams which win regional trophies will no longer be admitted to the prestigious, lucrative professional knock-out competitions, the Silk Cut Challenge Cup and the Regal Trophy.

## Ireland's visit is short on appeal

From IAN ROSS IN LANDSKRONA, SWEDEN

AS BILLY Bingham, the Northern Ireland manager, began his preparations for tomorrow's European championship qualifying game against the Faroe Islands with typical enthusiasm and optimism, those whose unenviable responsibility it is to keep the team's budget operating within a realistic framework

found themselves more concerned with matters fiscal.

After failing to make a profit in May when the Faroes' appearance in Belfast attracted a meagre audience, the Irish Football Association expects to lose over £25,000 on a group four fixture with appeal even more negligible now that it has been switched to the neutral soil of Sweden. Predictably, the game has

been met with mind-numbing indifference in the country which will host the final stages of the competition next summer and the Landskrona Stadium is expected to house no more than 3,000 people as the two countries pursue their first qualifying victories.

Ironically, Kingsley Black's elevation to the status of Northern Ireland's first £1 million plus footballer, has

only served to compound the IFA's monetary problems for his recent transfer to Luton Town to Nottingham Forest has resulted in a sharp increase in his country's insurance premium. "Our insurance figure for the team is around £5 million," David Bowen, the IFA's general secretary, said. Black, who will be seeking his first international goal on his seventeenth appearance, will have the uncapped Philip Gray alongside him in attack.

□ The German coach, Berti Vogts, has left Juergen Klinsmann out of his team to face England at Wembley tomorrow. With Rudi Voller also absent through injury, Germany's new-look attack will be led by Karlheinz Riedle and Thomas Doll, who are Lazio team-mates. Stefan Reuter moves to sweeper because Thomas Helmer is injured and Thomas Berthold banned.

GERMAN TEAM: B. Reuter, S. Reuter, J. Klinsmann, G. Buchwald, T. Helmer, S. Effenberg, L. Voller, A. Hübner, A. Brehme, T. Doll, K. Riedle.

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